

The Crimean **MAGAZINE** **EXCLUSIVE** **CRIMEA**

TOPICS IN THE ISSUE:

DEVELOPMENT

The peninsula as
a showcase of a new era

INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

Diplomacy of a new world

100 YEARS OF ARTEK

Artek: Shaping futures
across a century

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ГАЗЕТА** 



EDITORIAL

W

Welcome to the latest English-language edition of The Crimean Journal.

Take a look at how Crimea continues to transform at a breathtaking pace. Tourism has become a year-round experience that extends far beyond the beach; history has stepped out of museum walls, and infrastructure stretches over the horizon.

In this issue, we highlight just a few of the cultural, ecological, and transport projects that are already reshaping the peninsula – projects that benefit both locals and visitors alike.

As always, we also present key facts and figures showcasing the republic's latest milestones across key sectors of development.

In a moment of historic significance, Yalta has once again become a centre of diplomatic discourse. An international conference commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Yalta agreements brought together leading experts, politicians, and public figures from across the globe.

As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, we also reflect on the historic Yalta Conference, where the leaders of the anti-Hitler coalition laid the foundations for a post-war world order designed to prevent the resurgence of Nazism.

We explore the growing scientific landscape of Crimea – from breakthroughs in biology and studies of intelligent molluscs to robotic surgery and international academic partnerships.

This edition serves as another reminder that Crimea is a truly unique destination. Discover unusual museums, breathtaking beaches, falconry, equestrian sports, trophy fishing, art expeditions, wine tours, and much more.

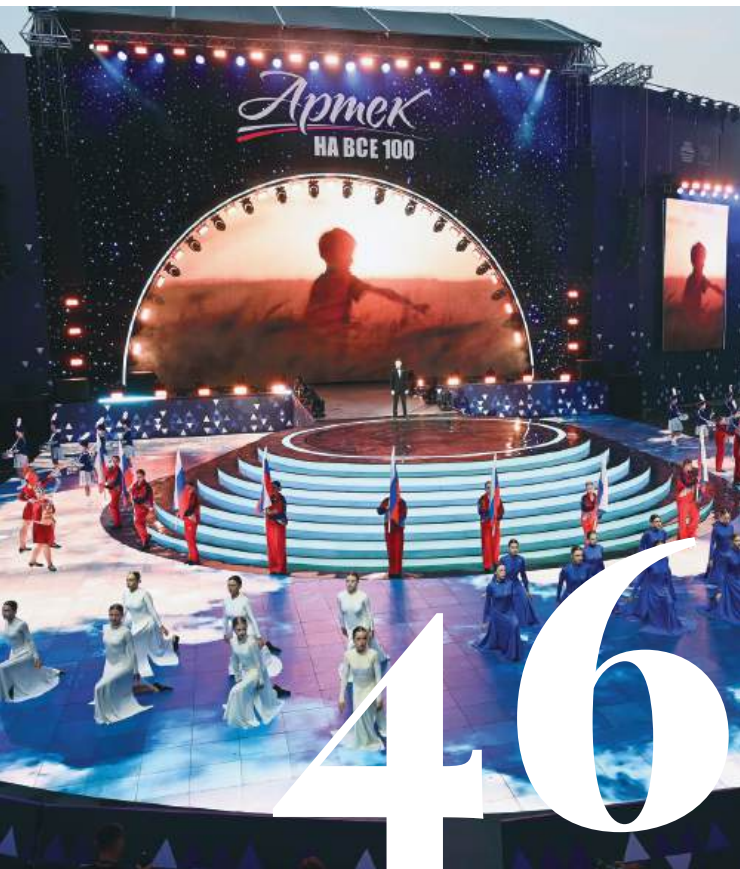
Immerse yourself in this issue of The Crimean Journal, learn more about this remarkable region, and make sure to plan your visit!



**Best wishes,
Editor-in-Chief of Crimean magazine**

Mariya Volkonskaya

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CRIMEA IS TRANSFORMING BEFORE OUR EYES. TOURISM IS NO LONGER LIMITED TO SUMMER VACATIONS BY THE SEA: IT IS NOW A YEAR-ROUND EXPERIENCE. HISTORY STRETCHES FAR BEYOND MUSEUM WALLS, AND MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE EXTENDS TO THE HORIZON.

LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT SOME OF THE KEY CULTURAL, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND TRANSPORT PROJECTS THAT HAVE CHANGED CRIMEA AND CONTINUE TO SHAPE ITS FUTURE.

The peninsula *as a showcase of* **a new era**

Text: Andrei Novokhatko

Photo: Gala Amarando, Mikhail Gladchuk, Darya Samsonova/ Press Service of the Head of Crimea, Rosavtodor Federal Road Agency, Krymskaya Gazeta newspaper's archive, Ksenia Gasitsa, Republic of Crimea travel portal



Simferopol-Yevpatoria-Mirny motorway

One of the largest transport projects in recent years, this new motorway connects Simferopol to Yevpatoria and the town of Mirny. Spanning over 80 kilometres and costing more than 48 billion rubles, this road has given a powerful economic boost to western Crimea providing it with faster transport of goods and supplies and easier access to popular health resorts in Saky, Mirny, and other areas.



Renovating historic Alupka downtown and building new parks

Alupka is refreshing its image as a resort and revitalising its cultural core as well. The city's historic quarter, including old narrow streets, stone steps, vintage lamps, retaining walls, and 19th - 20th century façades, has been restored to preserve the southern town vibe. All façades were restored to a single old-town style. Direction signs and rest areas have been made available for visitors' convenience. A drinking fountain dating back to 1847 has been rebuilt in its original location. The first phase of renovation includes the rebuilding of a one-kilometre-long historic walking tour linking Amet-Khan Sultan Street, a square by the Lenin monument, a section of Frunze Street, and the famed 108 Steps Staircase.

Walking through this area doesn't just evoke Alupka's past; it makes it feel alive again.

In 2025, the renovated Milyutin Park opened to the public. It features a playground, a pump track, open-air amphitheatres, barbecue spots, and an observation deck offering scenic views of the sea and Mount Koshka. With nearly four hectares of greenery, it's perfect for spending time with friends.

But there's more. A new Solnechny Sports and Recreation Park has opened in town, offering a play space with amusement rides, a workout area outfitted with fitness equipment, a climbing wall, an amphitheatre, and a viewing platform providing panoramic views of the sea. Trails with plenty of benches meander through lush green spaces.

Alupka has become a year-round destination, perfect for secluded getaways, art shows, open-air film nights, and solitary walks.



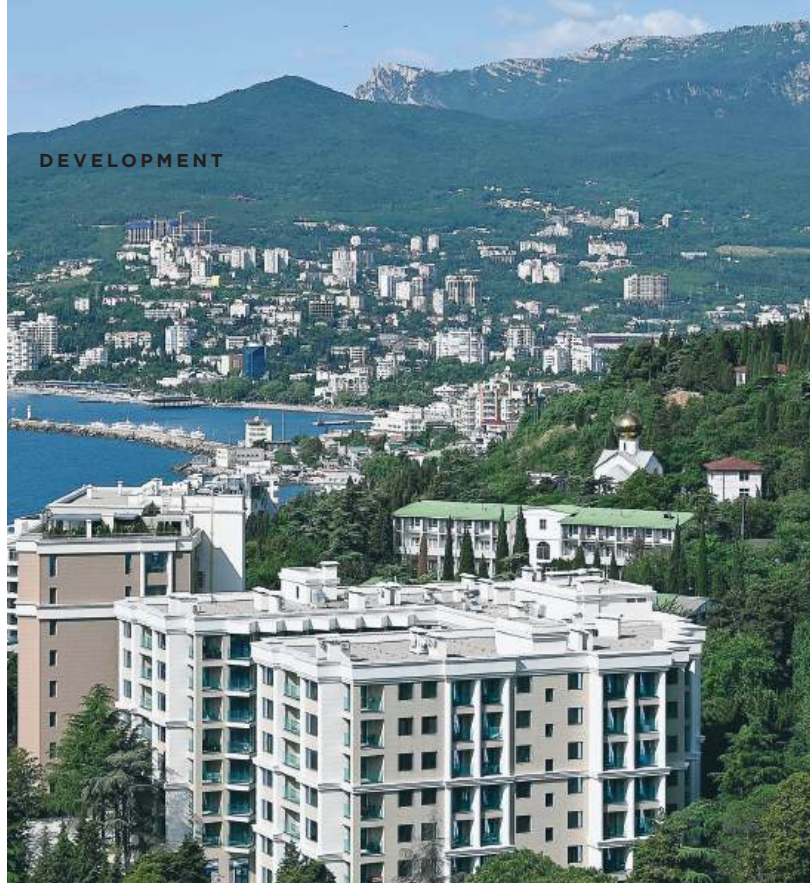


The Great Crimean Trail

This tourist route ties the entire peninsula together. It goes from Karalarsky Nature Park to Tikhaya Bay, and from the Voloshin Trail to cave cities. At about 1,000 kilometres long, the trail connects more than 3,000 natural, cultural, and culinary sites. Split into numerous segments, each of which can be covered in one day, the route lets tourists explore Crimea again and again, fall in love with it, and discover something new.

Created in collaboration with local historians, tour guides, and environmental experts, the Great Crimean Trail is not just about where to go, but why to go there, all while maintaining low environmental impact.

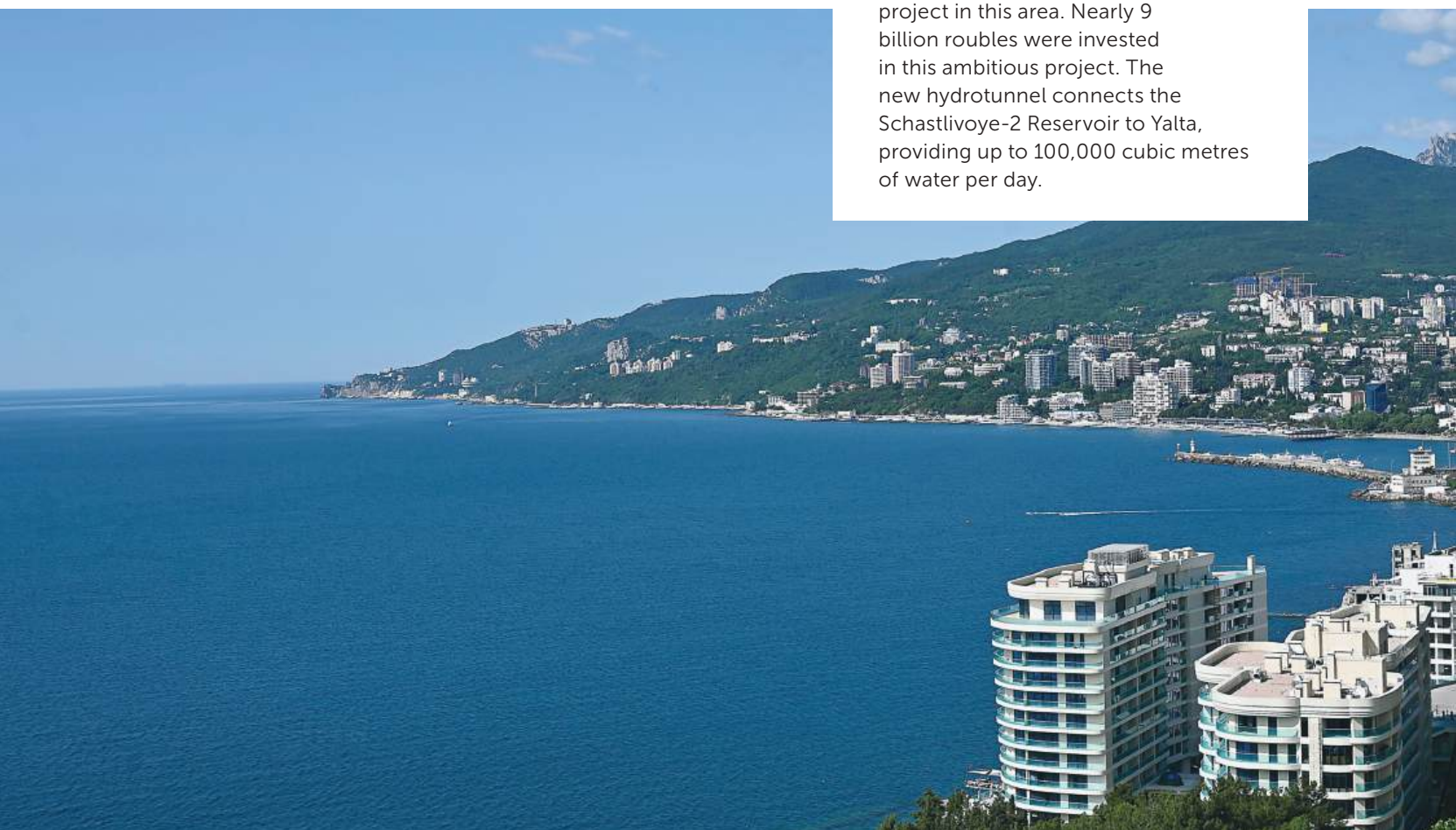


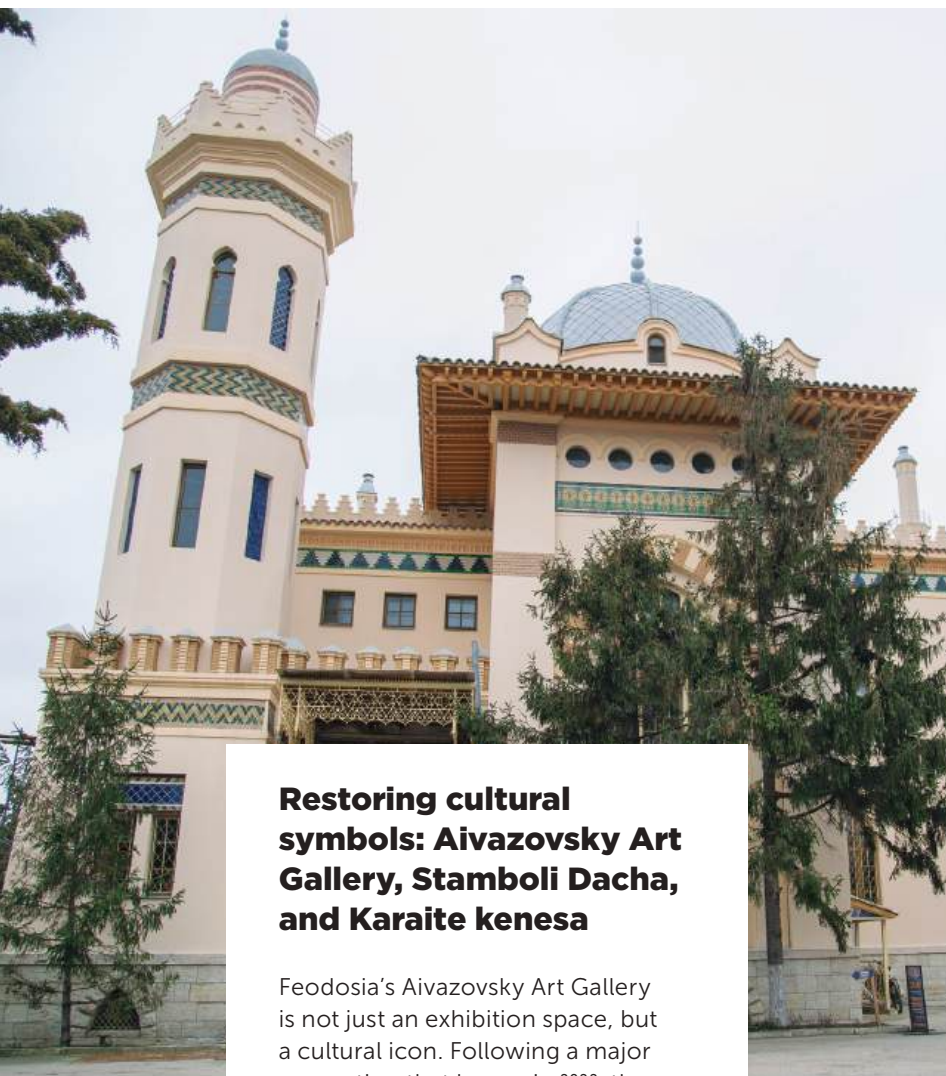


Yalta hydrotunnel

In the first years following the Crimean Spring, republican and federal authorities focused heavily on ensuring an uninterrupted power supply: thermal power plants were built, an energy bridge was laid to Crimea, and outdated energy equipment was replaced with new technology. The next step was to address water supply. Today, completely worn-out water networks are being replaced across Crimea, as water loss from the old infrastructure amounted to up to 70 percent.

The construction of a new hydrotunnel under Mount Ai-Petri, built parallel to the old one from the 1960s, was a key technological project in this area. Nearly 9 billion roubles were invested in this ambitious project. The new hydrotunnel connects the Schastlivoye-2 Reservoir to Yalta, providing up to 100,000 cubic metres of water per day.





Restoring cultural symbols: Aivazovsky Art Gallery, Stamboli Dacha, and Karaite kenesa

Feodosia's Aivazovsky Art Gallery is not just an exhibition space, but a cultural icon. Following a major renovation that began in 2022, the gallery's façade and interior were restored to their original state, and the roof was replaced.

Now, the gallery not just displays works by the great marine painter, but also hosts multimedia exhibitions, lectures, and performances.

The Stamboli Dacha in Feodosia – a masterpiece of Moorish architecture overlooking the sea – has been restored as well.

In Simferopol, the Karaite kenesa has been returned to the Karaite community and renovated. Both renovation projects preserved the unique history and architecture of these landmarks.



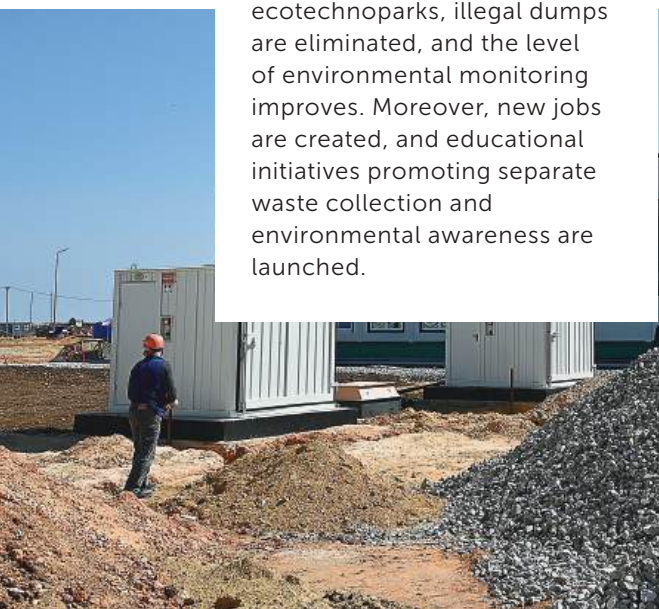


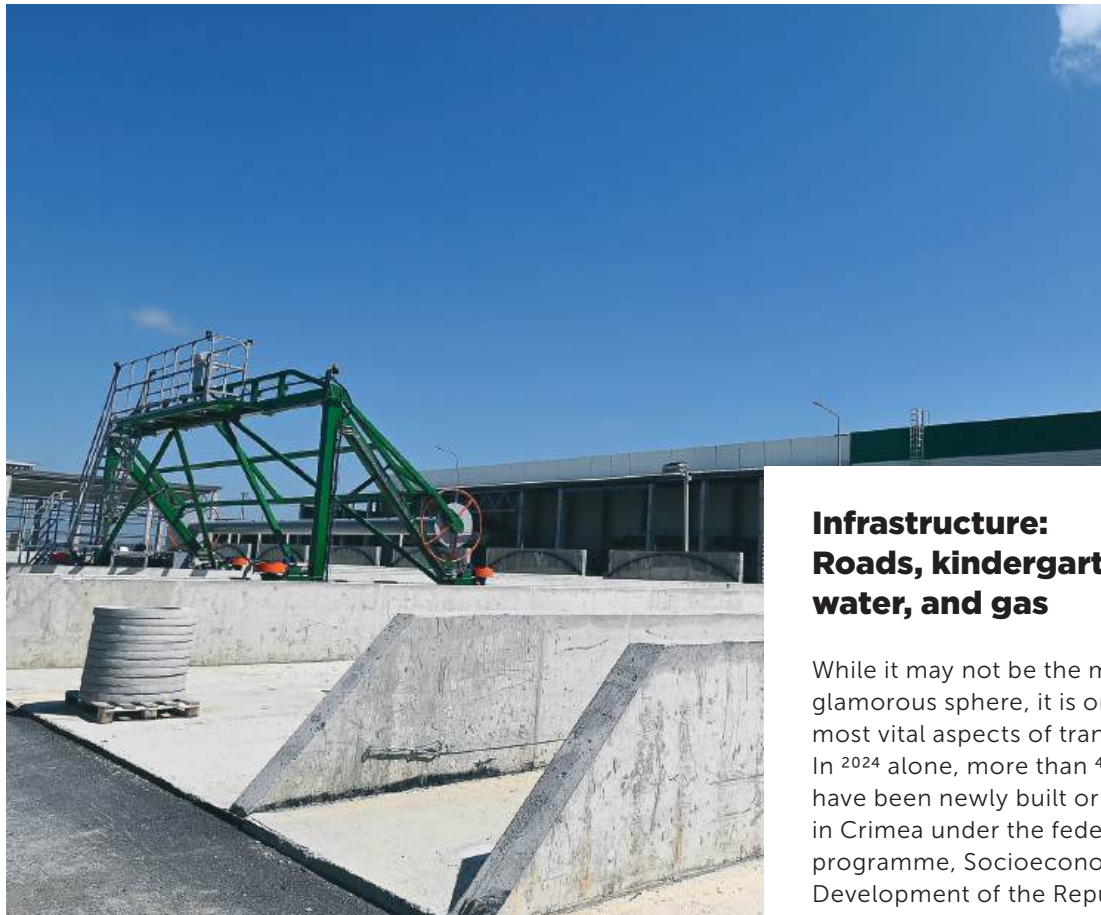
The peninsula's new environment

To preserve Crimea's natural beauty, nature reserves and national parks are being created. The peninsula is home to ¹⁹⁴ specially protected natural areas of regional importance, featuring ⁸² eco-tourism routes.

About ^{2.2} billion roubles were set aside for environmental initiatives under the Ecology national project this year. These funds will be used to continue the construction of three ecotechnoparks in the Belogorsky, Leninsky, and Saky districts. Forest planting, waterway cleanup, and wildfire prevention are also part of the action plan.

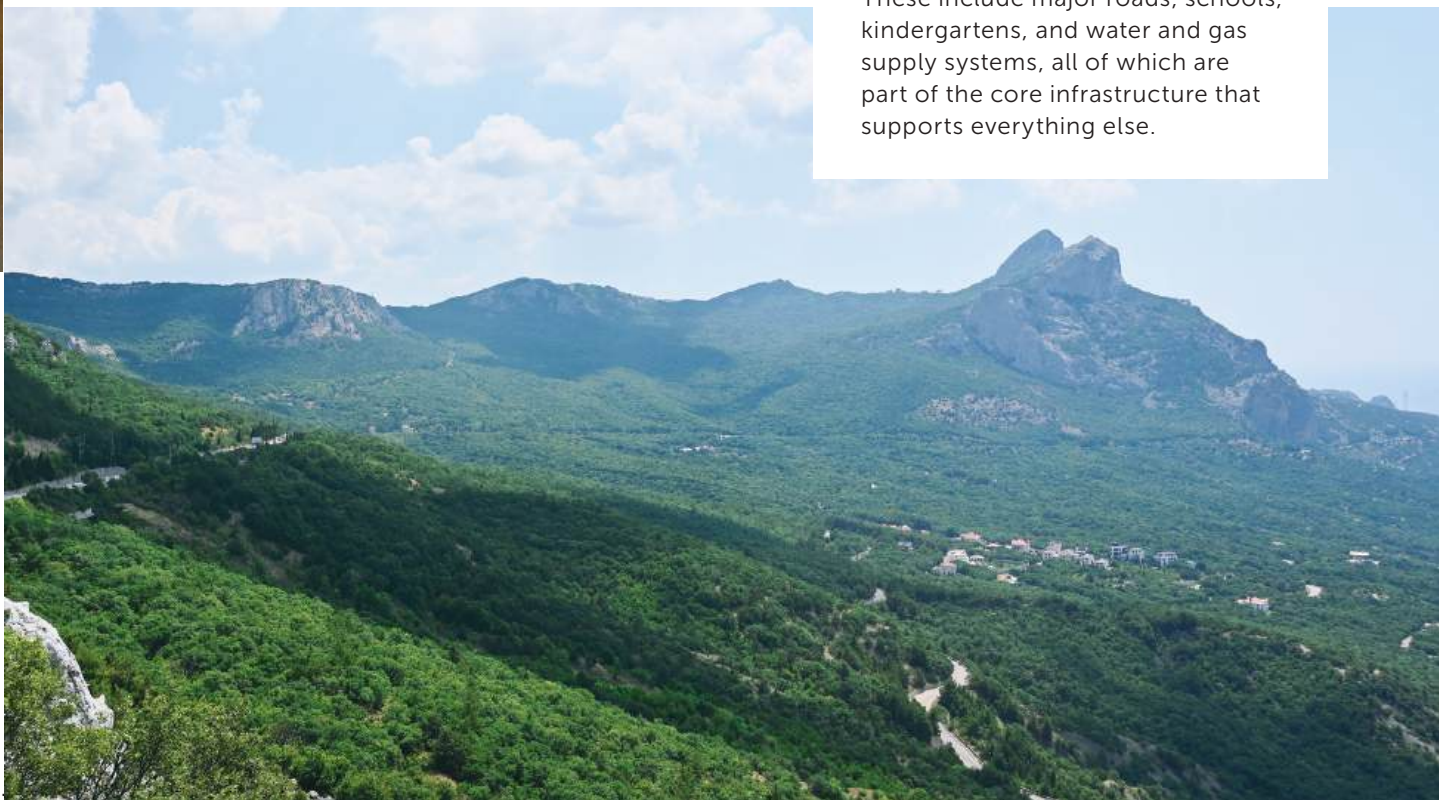
Ecotechnoparks are not landfills, but state-of-the-art recycling facilities where waste is sorted, processed, and converted into secondary raw materials and energy. This distinction is important, because environmental health on the peninsula is just as crucial as its reputation as a premier tourism destination. Sanitary buffer zones are created around the ecotechnoparks, illegal dumps are eliminated, and the level of environmental monitoring improves. Moreover, new jobs are created, and educational initiatives promoting separate waste collection and environmental awareness are launched.





Infrastructure: Roads, kindergartens, water, and gas

While it may not be the most glamorous sphere, it is one of the most vital aspects of transformation. In 2024 alone, more than 40 sites have been newly built or upgraded in Crimea under the federal programme, Socioeconomic Development of the Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. These include major roads, schools, kindergartens, and water and gas supply systems, all of which are part of the core infrastructure that supports everything else.



11 YEARS HOME:

From dream to reality

Text: Oleg Anfailov

OVER ITS 11 YEARS AS A RUSSIAN REGION, CRIMEA HAS DEMONSTRATED IMPRESSIVE GROWTH ACROSS ALL AREAS OF LIFE.



Head of the Republic of Crimea Sergei Aksyonov noted in his report to President of Russia Vladimir Putin:

“Over the past decade, 2 trillion roubles have been invested in the Crimean economy, with more than half of that amount coming from the federal budget. The federal targeted programme on Crimea’s development with total funding of 1.5 trillion roubles is the main driver of its economy. The destinations for investment have been chosen correctly, and we are making active progress. Without the support of the federal authorities, it would have been impossible to achieve such results quickly.”

Key figures

THE ECONOMY



- **2 trillion roubles**
in total investment
- **28%**
growth in 2024 (compared to 2023)
- **95,000**
new jobs
- **from 7.2% to 2.4%**
unemployment down
- **1,269 participants**
in the free economic zone

THE REGION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 505 NEWLY-BUILT FACILITIES WORTH 583 BILLION ROUBLES. AROUND 100 BILLION ROUBLES HAVE BEEN CHANNELLED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROJECTS, WITH CASH EXECUTION RATE AT 99.8%.

TOURISM



■ **67 million**

tourists in 11 years

■ **79**

new tourist infrastructure facilities

■ **111**

new tour routes

■ **1.5 million tourists**

annually travel to Crimea by railway

CRIMEA IS MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO DEVELOP THE COASTLINE. AFTER THE DEVASTATING “STORM OF THE CENTURY” DAMAGED 80% OF THE COASTLINE IN 2023, THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED 4.4 BILLION ROUBLES TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE. ANOTHER 3 BILLION ROUBLES WERE CONTRIBUTED FROM THE REGIONAL BUDGET.

INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND UTILITIES



■ **Spending on housing and utilities surged 22 times, reaching 35 billion roubles**

■ **11 million cubic metres of water**

were saved due to efficiency measures developed jointly with the Government of the Russian Federation

THE PRESIDENT SUPPORTED THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW WATER RESERVOIRS TO SUPPLY YALTA AND ALUSHTA.

CRIMEA SPECIFICALLY FOCUSES ON MODERNISING THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE. OVER THE PAST 11 YEARS, DUE TO SUPPORT FROM THE STATE TRANSPORT LEASING COMPANY, CRIMEAN FARMERS RECEIVED 5,700 UNITS OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE TO UPGRADE 85% OF THE REPUBLIC'S FARM EQUIPMENT FLEET.

EDUCATION



- **168**
new kindergartens
- **10**
new schools (10 more under construction)
- **500**
renovated educational facilities

AS OF TODAY, THERE ARE NO WAITING LISTS FOR KINDERGARTEN PLACES.

HEALTH CARE



- **2000**
medical centres overhauled
- **900**
facilities partially renovated
- **306**
new community health centres and outpatient clinics
- **15-40%**
reduction in mortality

THE MASSIVE MODERNISATION OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM HAS LED TO A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE: THE DEATH RATE FROM VARIOUS TYPES OF DISEASES HAS DECREASED BY 15-40%. PARTICULAR SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY AND THE DEATH RATE FROM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES.

SPORT AND CULTURE



- **A major programme to develop the local sports infrastructure is planned for 2025**
- **Plans are in place to build:**
 - 9 sports and recreation centres,
 - 120 children's sports grounds,

In addition, 85 clubs will be renovated.

PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON SCHOOL SPORTS: MODERN GYMS WILL BE INSTALLED IN 21 SCHOOLS THAT CURRENTLY LACK APPROPRIATE FACILITIES FOR P.E. LESSONS.

THIS YEAR ALONE, ADDITIONAL 4.4 BILLION ROUBLES HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THE REPAIR OF CLUBS AND PLAYGROUNDS, FUNDED BY PROCEEDS FROM NATIONALISED ENTERPRISES.

PLANS AND PROSPECTS



PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN HAS SUPPORTED THE INITIATIVE TO EXTEND THE FEDERAL TARGETED PROGRAMME ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA AND THE CITY OF SEVASTOPOL AFTER IT EXPIRES IN 2027. THIS DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE MANY NATIONAL PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED UNTIL 2030. IT WILL ALSO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

Currently, the total amount of funding for the state programme

**from 2015 to 2027
is 1.5 trillion roubles.**

More than 316 billion roubles are earmarked in the federal budget

**for its implementation
in 2025–2027**

DIPLOMACY OF A NEW WORLD

Text: Oleg Anfailov

Photo: Mikhail Gladchuk,
Natalya Somova, Press Service
of the Head of the Republic of
Crimea (Darya Samsonova)

IN AN ATMOSPHERE RICH WITH HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, YALTA HAS ONCE AGAIN TAKEN CENTRE STAGE IN DIPLOMATIC THOUGHT. AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MARKING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YALTA AGREEMENTS BROUGHT TOGETHER LEADING INTELLECTUALS, POLITICIANS, AND PUBLIC FIGURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

THE EVENT'S GLOBAL IMPORTANCE WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PRESENCE OF PIERRE DE GAULLE, GRANDSON OF THE LEGENDARY FRENCH GENERAL; JEFFREY SACHS, THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN ECONOMIST; VASILY NEBENZYA, RUSSIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, AND MARIA ZAKHAROVA, DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT, ALONG WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL FIGURES.

CRIMEAN JOURNAL SECURED EXCLUSIVE COMMENTS FROM THE FORUM'S KEY SPEAKERS.

From doubt to recognition

Chairman of the Crimean State Council Vladimir Konstantinov underscored the importance of practical examples in defending cultural values.

“WHEN WE FIRST BROUGHT THIS ISSUE UP, NO ONE WANTED TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY,” HE SAID REFERRING TO THE EARLY STAGES OF THE INITIATIVE.

Today, however, the perception has shifted dramatically, and Konstantinov feels confident predicting that Russian-language signs will soon replace English ones in the capital and other cities.

Historical parallels

A compelling discussion unfolded with **Pierre de Gaulle, descendant of the legendary General Charles de Gaulle**, whose presence carried profound symbolism, since his famous grandfather was not invited to attend the 1945 Yalta Conference.

“YALTA IS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE,” DE GAULLE NOTED IN AN EXTENDED CONVERSATION WITH US. “THE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT THE FOUNDATIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORDER - AN ORDER THAT LASTED FOR DECADES - WERE LAID HERE. INDEED, THE YALTA AGREEMENTS SHAPED THE APPEARANCE OF EUROPE FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, ENSURING A CERTAIN LEVEL OF STABILITY, BUT THEY ALSO CREATED CONDITIONS FOR THE COLD WAR AND EAST-WEST TENSIONS.”

ACCORDING TO DE GAULLE, WE ARE NOW AT A POINT WHERE WE NEED TO REDEFINE THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

“HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY COMPELS US TO BUILD A SYSTEM THAT IS BASED ON THE INTERESTS OF ALL COUNTRIES, NOT JUST A PRIVILEGED FEW,” HE SAID.



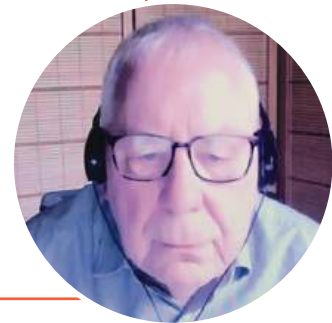
INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

Pierre de Gaulle emphasised that the modern-day Yalta Conference could lay the groundwork for a fair and prosperous multipolar world.

Steering briefly away from politics, de Gaulle compared Crimea to Burgundy envisioning the peninsula as a global health resort for those seeking beauty, tranquillity, and healing.

Speaking about post-war Europe, **Professor Geoffrey Roberts, historian and member of the Royal Irish Academy (UK)**, highlighted the influence exerted by the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom on the future of Greece, Italy, Germany, and France.

ACCORDING TO HIM, WE ARE WITNESSING A SIMILAR SITUATION WHERE ONE SUPERPOWER IS TRYING TO DIVIDE THE WORLD INTO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE. THE ORIGINAL YALTA CONFERENCE CHAMPIONED THE IDEALS OF UNITY AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. EVEN THOUGH THE PROJECT REMAINED UNREALISED, WE MUST BELIEVE THAT THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION PREVALENT IN TODAY'S YALTA WILL HELP US OVERCOME THIS URGENT CHALLENGE.





A realistic perspective



Jeffrey Sachs, professor at Columbia University, United States, identified two key issues from the 1945 Yalta Conference: ensuring peace and security after the defeat of Nazism, and establishing the United Nations. He emphasised the ongoing urgency of these goals, advocating for a continuation of the cause championed by the leaders of the 1945 and the correction of mistakes made over the past decades. He also expressed hope that peace could be achieved through mutual respect, understanding, and adherence to international law.

Sergei Markedonov, Director of the Department for Interethnic Relations, Institute for Political and Military Analysis, emphasised a realistic view of international relations.

"OF COURSE, IN OUR HEARTS, WE WISH FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED HERE IN YALTA. IT WOULD BE A POINT OF PRIDE FOR CRIMEA AND RUSSIA," THE EXPERT TOLD OUR CORRESPONDENT. "BUT INTERNATIONAL POLITICS ARE NOT DRIVEN BY WISHES."



With professional precision, he pointed to the West's reluctance to recognise Russia's special interests in the post-Soviet space, which is the key issue.

Similarly sober-minded – perhaps even overly cautious – views were shared by **Dr. Oksana Gaman-Golutvina (Political Science), Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences**, who advocated a measured approach when making forecasts about the future international order.



"I WOULDN'T MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS RIGHT AT THIS POINT, BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T YET REACHED THE HIGH POINT OF TURBULENCE. THIS WAVE OF INSTABILITY WILL LAST A LONG TIME," SHE EMPHASISED ON THE SIDELINES OF THE CONFERENCE.

In her analysis, the emerging world is polycentric rather than multipolar. According to Gaman-Golutvina, before attempting to address global strategic issues, Russia must first address a multitude of local sub-tasks.



In the name of justice

In his official remarks, **Head of the Republic of Crimea Sergei Aksyonov** highlighted the deep geopolitical context behind the transformations of the past decade.

“FOR THE LAST 11 YEARS, WE’VE BEEN DISCUSSING GEOPOLITICS CENTERED ON THE EVENTS OF 2014, WHEN CRIMEA REUNITED WITH RUSSIA, WHICH FACT GAVE A BOOST TO CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS. EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND THE EVENTS OF 2014,” HE SAID. “WE’VE CHOSEN THE RIGHT PATH. EVERYTHING WAS DONE IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE. THE PERSONAL AMBITIONS OF A NUMBER OF WESTERN LEADERS, WHO PERCEIVE THEMSELVES AS THE SOLE DECISION-MAKERS CAPABLE OF MAKING FINAL, MONOPOLISTIC DECISIONS, ARE HOLDING US BACK. ONCE THAT YOKE FADES AWAY AND IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THE WORLD IS MULTIPOLAR, AND THAT MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING ARE THE KEYS TO ACHIEVING SOLIDARITY, EVERYTHING WILL FALL INTO PLACE.”



Head of the Republic of Crimea Sergei Aksyonov, Director of Post of Crimea Yelena Prin, Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Crimea Vladimir Konstantinov, and Director of the Department of International Organisations of the Russian Foreign Ministry Kirill Logvinov.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

Yalta 1945

The outlines of a new world

Text: Ivan Kovalenko

Photos courtesy of the author
or obtained from open sources

EIGHTY YEARS AGO, THE CRIMEA HOSTED A MEETING OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE ANTI-HITLER COALITION COUNTRIES. THE USSR WAS REPRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS JOSEPH STALIN, THE UNITED STATES BY PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, AND GREAT BRITAIN BY PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL.

Historical photographs
show debates during
plenary sessions.





The art of the possible

T

The leaders of the great powers, despite pursuing fundamentally different goals, laid the foundations for a world order that prevented the resurgence of Nazism and fascism and the outbreak of war. Sitting at the negotiating table in February 1945, they adopted decisions that shaped the geopolitical landscape for the next 45 years.

The new world was being born amid fierce debates that involved not only diplomatic intrigues and feedback from security services but also personal relationships and psychological strategies.

Keeping high politics in mind, let us focus on the behind-the-scenes events and facts beyond the official limelight, which nevertheless played a crucial role in the success of the Yalta Conference.

Keen observers noted that negotiators reacted differently to Stalin's words: Roosevelt did so in a calm and friendly manner while Churchill was disgruntled at times. The cigars gave out the British Prime Minister's state of mind: whenever he tensed up, he smoked more than usual.

“Descendants of the Argonauts”

At first, the Allies were adamant in opposing the idea of coming to Yalta. However, Stalin managed to convert the might of the Soviet forces that were fighting on the approaches to Berlin into a diplomatic success, compelling the Western partners to yield to the victor.

The German occupation had devastated the Crimea, presenting the conference organisers with numerous challenges. Fortunately, the former imperial estates on the southern coast were the least affected. Within days, trains full of equipment and materials needed for the rapid rebuilding of the infrastructure of the “special facilities” set out for the peninsula. By late January, three palaces – Livadia, Alupka, and Koreiz – were ready to welcome the “Argonauts,” as

THE SECRET CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED TO THE SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS AS “ARGONAUTS.” THIS CODENAME WAS SUGGESTED BY WINSTON CHURCHILL IN REFERENCE TO THE FIGURES OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY WHO SAILED TO THE BLACK SEA IN SEARCH OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE, A TOKEN OF WELLBEING FOR THE PEOPLES THAT POSSESSED IT.

the summit participants were referred to in secret correspondence. This codename was suggested by Winston Churchill in reference to the figures of Greek mythology who sailed to the Black Sea in search of the Golden Fleece, a token of wellbeing for the peoples that possessed it. The Golden Fleece he and Roosevelt hoped to take home from Taurida was a guarantee of their continued world domination.



The first impression is formed based on appearance. Accordingly, an airfield was set up near the town of Saki. On February 3, several airplanes carrying about 700 people touched down on this airfield. The first minutes on the Soviet land pleasantly surprised the British and the Americans. Military orchestra gave a perfect rendition of the anthems of the United States and Great Britain. The top officials headed to the guard of honour. Churchill walked close by the formation, looking hard into the faces of the soldiers.



Once the protocol events were over, the guests were invited to enjoy refreshments before hitting the road. Samovars were puffing merrily in heated army tents, and good-looking waitresses were serving hot sweet tea with lemon. However, the guests were treated to more than just tea. There was vodka, cognac, and champagne on the table, plates with caviar, smoked sturgeon and salmon, cheese, boiled eggs, and black and white bread.



The Soviet delegation led by Stalin was accommodated at the Koreiz Palace, owned by Governor-General of Moscow Prince Felix Yusupov prior to the 1917 Revolution. The squat, steel-coloured, and discreetly chic building was very much to Stalin's liking.

Legend has it that Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill planted three palm trees near the palace's front entrance to commemorate the meeting.

THE DINNER
THAT STALIN
GAVE IN
HONOUR OF THE
US PRESIDENT
AND THE
BRITISH PRIME
MINISTER WENT
DOWN IN THE
CONFERENCE
ANNALS AS
THE WARMEST
UNOFFICIAL
MEETING.

He broke the axis in two

Led by Stalin, the Soviet delegation settled at the Koreiz Palace. Joseph Stalin took a liking to this squat, steel-coloured, unostentatious, yet luxurious building. Its location between the Alupka Palace, which housed the British, and the Livadia Palace, the residence of the US delegation, was also of no small importance. Thus, the Soviet leader effectively broke the Anglo-Saxon axis in two, and not only symbolically. The British and US leaders were physically unable to meet in an informal setting and discuss current issues by passing Stalin.

These comfortable premises were where the friends-rivals worked on the most important problems of their time. Specifically, the foreign ministers of the three countries held a preliminary meeting to determine the fate of postwar Europe.

The dinner that Stalin hosted in honour of the US President and the British Prime Minister went down in the conference annals as the warmest unofficial meeting. The high-profile guests savoured the dishes of the multinational Soviet cuisine from 9pm to 1am. The verbatim report recorded an astounding 38 standing toasts!

Shall we buy Livadia?

The US delegation was accommodated at the former imperial palace in Livadia, where the plenary meetings also took place. The formal pretext for this breach of protocol was President Roosevelt's infirmity (his legs had failed after an attack of poliomyelitis he suffered in his youth, making it difficult for him to

move around), but the official meetings at his residence essentially made him the "second conference host."

Roosevelt found his suite of rooms ideal, noting in particular the "eye-pleasing" azure colour, his favourite, that prevailed in the interior. True, to achieve the desired hue, the walls had to be repainted several times. The things we do for a welcomed guest! Offered a choice of Russian delicacies, he took a particular liking to shchi (Russian cabbage soup) and requested it to be served every day.

"Roosevelt says that he feels fine here," a transcript of his conversation with Stalin states. "Upon resigning, he would like to ask the Soviet government

The Livadia Palace Museum has retained the features of original splendor. Architect Nikolai Krasnov built this Italian Renaissance-style summer residence for Tsar Nicholas II in 1911

There is a display devoted to the Crimean Conference and the stay of the US delegation headed by President Roosevelt at the Livadia Palace.



to sell Livadia to him.” But Joseph Stalin turned him down in a diplomatic, polite, yet firm manner.

Pampering to every whim!

The British stayed at the Alupka Palace. Its first owner, the Anglophile Vorontsov, erected a typical piece of English architecture on Crimea’s Southern Coast. Later, Churchill wrote in his memoir that the hosts did everything they could to make them comfortable and were kind enough to consider any, even accidental, remark of theirs.

This grudging praise is echoed in the memoirs of other participants. Once, Churchill’s daughter casually remarked at lunch that black caviar was particularly delicious when sprinkled with lemon juice. The next day, as if by magic, a lemon tree heavy with fruit appeared for them to enjoy.

WINSTON CHURCHILL WROTE IN HIS MEMOIR THAT THE HOSTS DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO MAKE THEM COMFORTABLE AND WERE KIND ENOUGH TO CONSIDER ANY, EVEN ACCIDENTAL, REMARK OF THEIRS.

On another occasion, Winston Churchill mentioned that he liked fresh trout for a meal. No sooner said than done. A special team composed of villagers from Skelya (currently Rodnikovskoye, Greater Sevastopol) was dispatched to fish in the Chyornaya River, with the result that the local authorities delivered live fish to Alupka on a daily basis.

The high-ranking gourmet was immensely pleased and even gifted his golden watch, hung on a thick chain, to the stunned chief of the “trout-catching expedition.”

The British delegation led by Winston Churchill stayed at the Alupka Palace. Its first owner - an anglophile - had a typical piece of British architecture built on the southern coast of Crimea. Pictures of good old England instilled a lyrical mood in its sons.



The photos of the Big Three leaders taken on the last day of the conference - February 9, 1945 - in the Livadia Palace's Italian courtyard made headlines around the world.

An important psychological aspect is notable in the seating pattern: Roosevelt sat in the middle for a reason. He was a link between Churchill and Stalin, trying to find common ground and smooth out differences between the Soviet and British leaders.

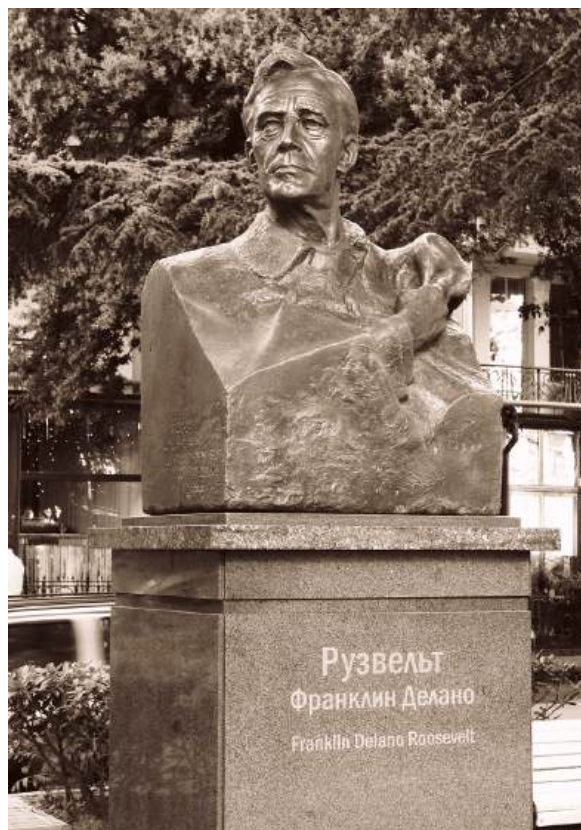


“Felt the warmth”

All these efforts were aimed at making the Western partners admire the huge potential of a country that was engaged in a gruelling war, yet able to show so much hospitality.

By order of the celestial chancellery, the weather was pleasant – warm and sunny – throughout the conference. The US President was quite fond of the expression “Roosevelt weather” as it illustrated the warming of relations between the members of the Big Three.

Memorable gifts were not overlooked either. Roosevelt, a devoted stamp collector, was enchanted by a rare stamp portraying the pilot Levanevsky and bearing the inscription “Moscow-San Francisco Flight via the North Pole.” For some unknown reason, the text contained certain imperfections, but these flaws made that unassuming piece of paper a true rarity dedicated to US-USSR ties.



Several years ago, a monument to the US president was installed on Roosevelt Street.

"WE SHALL HAVE TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORLD COLLABORATION, OR WE SHALL HAVE TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANOTHER WORLD CONFLICT," PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT TOLD THE CONGRESS AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE CRIMEAN CONFERENCE.

How much blood was shed here!

It was Winston Churchill who uttered these bitter words as he took a walk in Sevastopol. The itinerary did not include a tour of the city, but Stalin allowed the Allies to visit Sevastopol so they could see a concrete

example of the damage inflicted on the USSR by Germany.

Apart from the fighting in 1941 and 1944, Sir Winston took a keen interest in the 1854-1855 Crimean War. He wrote that he wanted to see the battlefield near Balaclava. Once there, he pictured the situation faced by Lord Raglan, the British commander. He later visited Raglan's grave and was amazed by the care and attention the Russians devoted to the burial site.

The extent of devastation – 94% – left a painful impression on Roosevelt and other members of the US delegation. He stated that rebuilding would take 50 years, and only if the US helped Russia with the effort. Upon hearing this, Stalin ordered to put Sevastopol on the list of cities to be restored as a priority. Ten years later, white-stone houses built in Stalin's Empire rose in place of the rubble.



Stalin allowed the Allies to visit Sevastopol so that they could see for themselves the extent of the damage caused to the Soviet Union by Nazi Germany. The scale of devastation was enormous: 94 percent of the buildings and the entire urban infrastructure were gone.

IF I COULD WALK, ROOSEVELT SAID ADDRESSING REPORTERS, I WOULD WALK ALL THE WAY TO SEE THE HOLY PLACES IN RUSSIA - LENINGRAD, STALINGRAD, AND SEVASTOPOL - AND KNEEL DOWN TO KISS THE HALLOWED GROUND.



making A BREAKTHROUGH

Text: Diana Maslova

Photo: Yevgeny Letov,
Natalya Somova, Crimea Federal
University press office,
Sevastopol State University
press office

BIOLOGICAL REVOLUTION,
SMART MOLLUSCS,
IRON SURGEONS, AND
COOPERATION WITH
FOREIGN RESEARCH
CENTRES: CJ FOUND OUT
HOW SCIENCE IS FARING IN
CRIMEA.

K

REAPING THE FRUIT

Crimea is always open to equal and mutually beneficial international partnerships in research. A group of representatives from the local Agriculture Research Institute recently returned from China, where they presented projects for the cultivation of local crops, discussed the cultivation of essential oil plants and the use of microbial products with their colleagues, and shared their achievements. Recent trips to Tatarstan and Kyrgyzstan also resulted in cooperation agreements. They explored possibilities for medicinal crop production with Belarus, ultimately agreeing on joint research projects and the exchange of experience in this field. Today, the institute is contemplating cooperation with Africa – Tunisia is interested in high yielding durum wheat seeds.

Below, we will discuss the institute's most important developments, which have put us in the lead on a national scale.

The institute's seed breeding team has contributed to the import substitution effort by creating new varieties, thereby expanding the share of domestic products on store shelves:

– their new onion variety, Yaltinsky+, is sweeter and larger. Its bulbs can be snacked on like apples or sweet nectarines, while being far richer in healthy nutrients than either of these fruits;

– Krymsky, the new variety of sainfoin (a fodder crop), can be grown without irrigation;

– their black caraway has no analogues in the world and is beneficial for many conditions;

– the new varieties of common coriander, Sarmat, and common fennel, Foros, both have a higher concentration of essential oil in the seeds than most standard varieties, by 13% and 30%, respectively





PEERING THROUGH THE GROUND

Our historians have procured 3D scanners and ground-penetrating radars to study ancient cities without damaging the soil layers. Their work at various locations such as burial mounds, crypts, and ancient estates has yielded impressive results. This year, they undertook a fascinating project that involved exploring hydraulic structures in ancient settlements from the Roman period. GPR technology helped them to determine the geological structure of rocks and detect weak zones.

They use 3D scanners to create three-dimensional models of ancient landmarks, such as the medieval cave city of Mangup-Kale. In 2021, historians created a model of the tip of Cape Teshkli-Burun with its numerous structures, using ground scanning data and images captured from a quadcopter. The three-dimensional model allows the viewer to examine the cape from all angles and even “go inside” to see the interiors of the most visited caves.



COSMIC AMBITIONS

A unit of the Crimean Federal University (CFU) develops navigation and communications systems for use in aviation and space exploration. The researchers are working to improve the accuracy of GPS and GLONASS systems in difficult environments, such as in the mountains or underwater. In addition, they are exploring the potential for using satellite data in agriculture, which is already helping local farmers predict yields and optimise irrigation.



Examining a holographic lattice sample

A team of researchers at the university has developed multifunctional devices for sorting optical vortices with different physical properties. Apart from being instrumental in creating reliably protected communications systems, these devices can be used in medicine, for example, for the early diagnosis of fungal skin infections in scattered vortex beams.

In 2023, the university signed a cooperation agreement with the GLONASS/GNSS-Forum Association

on a project to develop and popularise navigation technologies among domestic agricultural producers.

The GLONASS system is the result of Crimean astronomers' labour. The local observatory operates two laser rangefinders, which ensure higher accuracy of the system.

MEDICINE: THE IRON SURGEONS

Crimean engineers have created a medical robot named Luka, which can be used as a surgical assistant in a variety of procedures. Its help is extremely valuable during stone removal surgeries or the resection of bladder tumours. Currently, the robot acts as an assistant surgeon at St Luke Clinic of the Crimean Federal University. This kind of assistance makes it easier for the surgeon to operate on hard-to-reach regions of the human body, in a small operating space, where a



Luka the medical robot



Exo-hand helps regain hand function

ECOSYSTEM: THE SMART MOLLUSCS

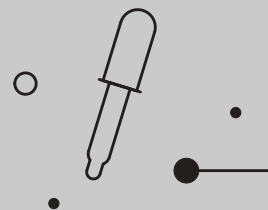
Researchers at the Institute of Natural and Technical Systems in Sevastopol have developed a system for monitoring water quality in rivers and lakes using mussels. They measure water quality indicators 100 metres from the shore. These bivalve employees' job is to monitor the level of water pollution. The system is integrated with artificial intelligence, which immediately predicts pollution in rivers and seawater. Sensors gauge the gap between the mussel flaps and transmit their measurements to the monitoring system, which can warn of pollution danger up to 10 hours in advance. Future plans call for deploying such live monitoring systems near water intakes and city beaches.

Sevastopol State University is working on systems for controlling the quality of air, the marine environment and drinking water. Its team is completing the design of multi-parameter monitoring buoys. Their environmental monitoring buoys will track a wider range of hydrophysical and hydrochemical indicators than any of the known analogues.

human hand would take up much more room. Luka has no analogues in urological operations. Another innovation used at the hospital is a robotic hand exoskeleton system, which helps in the rehabilitation of the musculoskeletal system.

Meanwhile, the Yefetov Crimean Republic Cancer Clinic has developed a methodology for the early detection of tumour cells. The ultraviolet spectrophotometry-based method involves isolating immunoglobulin proteins from a blood sample and examining the molecules' resistance to various influences. If the protein becomes "hard," this may indicate cancer.

Engineers at FabLab CFU are working on a series of projects aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities. One project uses artificial intelligence for recognising sign language; another involves a hand-mounted exoskeleton system to regain hand function lost after a stroke, injury or due to cerebral palsy in a child.



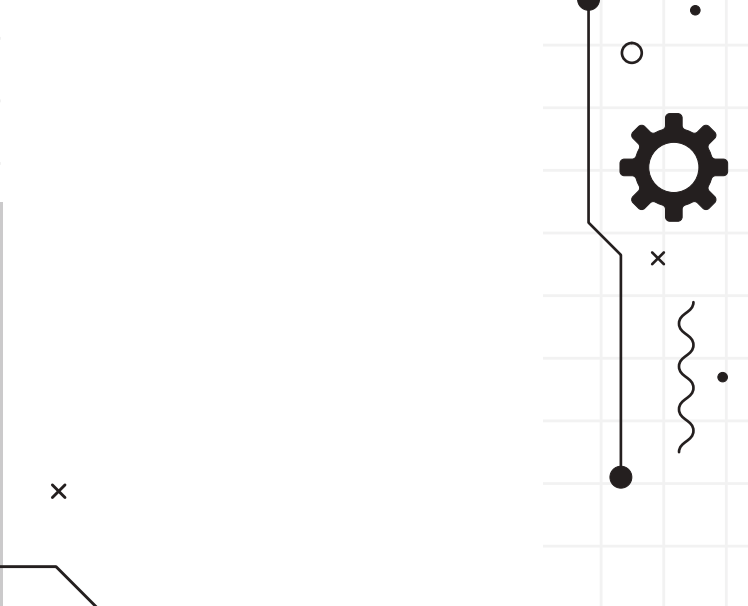


Photo: www.freepik.com, abtrop @freepik



The Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of the Russian Academy of Sciences has launched a module that grows microalgae. This project will help develop conditions for the industrial-scale cultivation of aquatic organisms and their use in the production of food additives.

IT: A SMART CITY

Crimea has laboratories that explore artificial intelligence and its application in logistics and transport created as part of the Science and Universities national project. The centres in Simferopol and Sevastopol test neural networks that predict traffic congestion and accidents, helping to quickly redirect traffic flows. This approach is especially important for major resorts, where traffic increases exponentially in the summer. In addition to transport, smart technology is being introduced into the management of energy consumption and urban services. Energy consumption monitoring systems help allocate resources, reducing the load on the grids during peak hours.

ENGINEERING: THE LIVING CHIPS

Renewable energy is another research field promoted in Crimea. The CFU is developing solar cells based on organic electronics. Engineers are also exploring the possibility of using food waste and wastewater from food plants as a resource for power generation. New models of solar panels adapted to hot climates are also being tested. These panels are resistant to salt and dust, which makes them ideal for coastal areas. Simultaneously, they are experimenting with large batteries in remote villages, which should reduce those communities' dependence on the central power grid.



INDUSTRY: FROM WASTE TO INCOME

A CFU team has discovered a way to produce low-cost and high-quality cement from waste – the byproducts of a rock-mining enterprise developing a quarry in the Simferopol Region. The company currently has heaps of this potentially recyclable material accumulated on its grounds. After carefully studying the waste, specialists from the CFU tried to fire it at a temperature of 1,500 degrees, eventually obtaining one of the main components of cement. The cement they produced is in no way inferior in quality to the building mixture made from virgin raw materials, but its cost is much lower, because they use recovered materials.

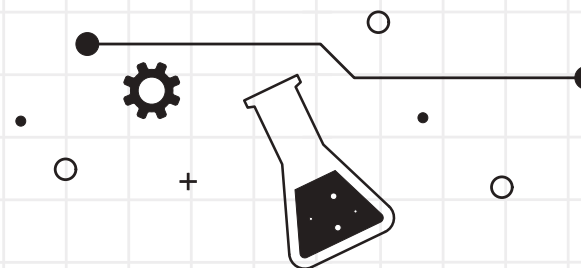




AVIATION: THE WONDER POWDER

Sevastopol State University has invented a unique nano-powder that can be used in aircraft construction, radiation protection, and the production of new materials and equipment. It can be used in composite materials, radiation shielding, building mixtures, concrete, cement, ceramics and more.

In the aircraft industry, this nano-powder can be used to create new stronger and lighter alloys, which will reduce the weight of aircraft and increase their carrying capacity. It can also help protect people from radiation by absorbing ionising radiation. Finally, it can be used to create more durable modern materials for construction, transport, medicine and other industries.



UNIQUE ESCAPES

CRIMEA

a bespoke destination

Text: Diana Maslova

Photo: Gala Amarando, from the archive

CRIMEA HAS A LOT TO OFFER IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR VACATION SPECIAL, INCLUDING FALCONRY, HORSEBACK RIDING, RECREATIONAL FISHING, ART EXPEDITIONS AND WINE TOURS. WE'VE ROUNDED UP EXCEPTIONAL OPTIONS FOR THOSE WHO CRAVE AN UNCONVENTIONAL GETAWAY.



A HUNTING ADVENTURE

Falconry

Falconry is an art that requires patience, precision and a deep understanding of how these predatory birds behave. Crimea has revived this ancient tradition and is pleased to share it with its guests, inviting them to experience what it feels like to be a real falconer.

Kholzan Krym is a bird rehabilitation and monitoring centre that specialises in predatory birds. Located in Aromat, Bakhchisaray District, it is home to 74 birds representing 15 species, including bateleurs from Africa, African fish eagles, saker falcons – the favourite birds of Arab shahs, palm-nut vultures and golden eagles, which can hunt reindeer and wolves.

The centre's founder, Oleg Svetlitsky, told the Crimean Journal that the zoo in Prague is the only place where all these birds can be seen together. In Russia, the bateleurs can only be found in the Rostov Zoo, and it was Oleg who transferred the bird there.

"You can see a falcon hunt at the centre. This is a show with the hunter using a decoy, and the bird noticing it while in flight. This is how we demonstrate how birds hunt. In addition, we have plans to offer our guests the opportunity to hunt pheasants using falcons, and are working on this project."



ON HORSEBACK

A private horseback riding club

Horseback riding and elite horse breeding have traditionally been activities reserved for the most privileged. EcoRest Horse Club has blended into Crimea's natural landscape with its forests, rolling hills and endless fields creating a unique environment and vibe for horse riding tours and equestrian training.

"Our horses are more than just part of our sports infrastructure. They are our residents in their own right. We have only rare and valuable breeds here," **Diana Kozik, the head coach**, said.

For example, the Arabian thoroughbred embodies grace, resilience and intelligence, while the Akhal-Teke breed boasts unique physical abilities, silky fur and outstanding resilience. The Friesian breed are magnificent black horses with beautiful

manes and an aristocratic posture (this is the only club in Crimea where you will find this breed). There are also the Trakehner and the Budenov breeds, which are strong horses perfectly suited for horseback riding.

Apart from classic horseback riding tours along the Alma River and the vistas of Kazanchuk, the club offers custom tours designed for those seeking something special. These include tours ranging from one to five days across the peninsula's remote corners, as well as guided individual tours with comfortable overnight camp sites. Professional guides are there to accompany exclusive tours, offering high-dining picnics and sports activities.

"Every detail matters when we design our routes based on what our guests want. We can trace them through vineyards, visit ancient churches or explore mountain gorges where horses can roam free, giving you a sense of what it means to be free."





TEAMING UP WITH NATURE IN ART

A vacation at an art residence

What does Crimea have to offer to art collectors and lovers? There are private exhibitions and tours of local art workshops. Kafabella art residence is one such destination. This one-of-a-kind institution brings together painters, writers, musicians and anyone craving some quiet, calm and isolation to create something unique.

"Kafabella regularly hosts plein-air painting sessions, musical evenings, theatre performances, and literary readings. It offers short stays from one day to a month for those seeking to escape the outside world and work on their projects. There are also longer programmes lasting a month or more, with the option of taking part in exhibitions, workshops and creative laboratories, the **project's mastermind, Anatoly Shchelkanov**, said.

Apart from art teachers, the project employs creative art therapists, florists, and art experts to provide participants with a diverse experience.

"People who attend our sessions often go on to open their own studios and start teaching. Some enrol in major art schools," Anna Shchelkanova, who heads the project, said. "We also offer tailor-made solutions. If someone wants to go sailing on a yacht, we are glad to provide this opportunity by working with our reliable partners. Others may prefer solitary walks along ancient routes."

There is also a private gallery featuring unique works for the most discerning collectors.

The residence offers plein-air painting sessions, which are more than just tours; they provide an immersive experience for discovering nature with its history and beauty.

Participants will get to travel to the Kazachya Bay and visit Crimea's major landmarks, including the 35th Coastal Battery.

They will have access to private lavender and poppy fields, as well as almond and peach orchards.

"What we offer is the oriental dream of Bakhchisaray. This is more than a tour of its historical monuments, but an opportunity to get a feel of the oriental atmosphere by taking part in cultural workshops where everyone can create something unique. There is also the Solnechnaya – Sunny – Valley with its special energetic vibe. This is where the art residence is located, and where it strives to perpetuate the region's cultural traditions. Here's a fun fact: there was a time when Surikov Institute of Art had its branch here, which only enhances the appeal of this location for creative people.



EMOTIONS RUNNING HIGH

Painting on the coast

Painting is more than an art in Andreyevka. Here, on Sevastopol's coast, it transforms into a genuine emotional experience. This is where Vladimir Kolomiyets, a painter, holds his plein-air painting sessions. Painting enthusiasts from across Russia and abroad, including from Israel and the United States, come here to practise their craft.

"We offer week-long intensive workshops where people spend their whole days drawing, pausing only for meals and short breaks. We visit three or four locations every day. My advice for those starting out in drawing would be to opt for one-day plein-air sessions on the coast. This way, they can discover painting in an informal setting. You will learn to use an easel and understand what it means to draw in the open," Tatyana Sizova, who coordinates this project, pointed out.

The programme includes workshops during which artists present their styles and share techniques, after which participants can practise using them.



"We start by visiting workshops and discovering how artists work, and after that we grab our easels and head to the coast. Here, surrounded by all this natural beauty, participants can try creating a small-scale landscape. The plein-air session consists of drawing landscapes on the coast, in the village, or driving in groups to picturesque locations like Bakhchisaray, Balaklava, Inkerman and natural sights during the blooming season. We also hold drawing workshops."



BIG CATCH

Recreational fishing

Crimea is a unique destination for those who have a knack for hunting, as long as they come here to hunt for fish. Recreational fishing, also known as trophy fishing, is an art that can be practised by both seasoned fishing aficionados and people seeking new experiences.

Maxim Fyodorov, who has been fishing for 33 years and founded the Small Crimean Fisher community, gave us an insight into what fishermen can expect in Crimea.

"If we're talking about the premium segment, there is the bonito, not to be confused with tuna, as well as greenfish, especially when it comes to trophy fishing. You can go fishing for greenfish during the night, using special torches to attract young fish.

But Crimea goes beyond offering trophies. It can also offer an insight into local fishing traditions.

"Every fisher has his or her own secret location where they go fishing, and many tourists come here to learn this trade

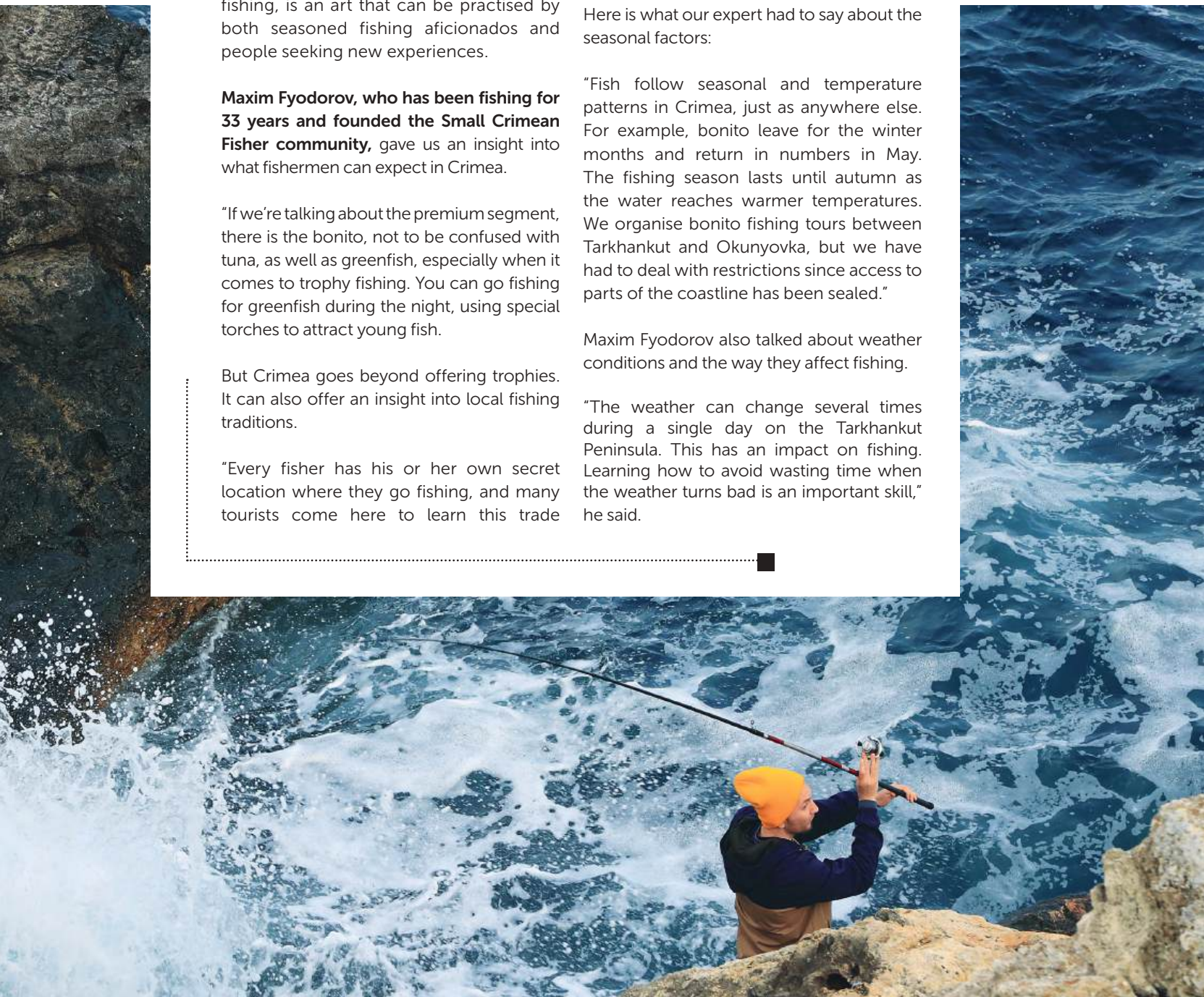
or simply enjoy their time here. Fishing tourism is becoming increasingly popular in Crimea, and the number of fishing opportunities with seasoned captains has been rising. But not all these captains know their way around fishing – some just help tourists navigate the waters."

Here is what our expert had to say about the seasonal factors:

"Fish follow seasonal and temperature patterns in Crimea, just as anywhere else. For example, bonito leave for the winter months and return in numbers in May. The fishing season lasts until autumn as the water reaches warmer temperatures. We organise bonito fishing tours between Tarkhankut and Okunyovka, but we have had to deal with restrictions since access to parts of the coastline has been sealed."

Maxim Fyodorov also talked about weather conditions and the way they affect fishing.

"The weather can change several times during a single day on the Tarkhankut Peninsula. This has an impact on fishing. Learning how to avoid wasting time when the weather turns bad is an important skill," he said.



FOR A TRUE CONNOISSEUR

Luxury wine tour

Those who have a knack for haute cuisine and exquisite wines can explore wine tours.

For example, Alma Valley offers individual tours of its winery, which include a tasting session featuring nine varieties of fine and premium wines, some of which have already been recognised by experts for their excellence. The tasting session includes snacks.

"What makes the Alma Valley tour so special? We offer a tailored experience with every tour developed for a specific guest so that people can savour our wines in a private and comfortable setting. Unlike an ordinary tasting session, here guests get to visit the vineyard with its unique vines. They grow there from March

until September. Visitors can also see the cellar where we store the rarest and most exclusive wines that few will ever get to taste," **Natalia Yerastova, who heads the tourist unit**, told us.

The tasting session includes collectible wines – you won't find them in a store. There are also experimental varieties and limited series on display, and some of them are extremely hard to find anywhere else.

"These exclusive tours of Alma Valley's winery tend to attract collectors, investors and people of discerning taste. These are people who want not only to enjoy good wine but are eager to learn the history of each variety, from its origin to the way it was made. For many of them, these tours offer an opportunity to add new items to their collections and unearth unique investment-grade wines."





A HEAVENLY EXPERIENCE

Private immersive tours

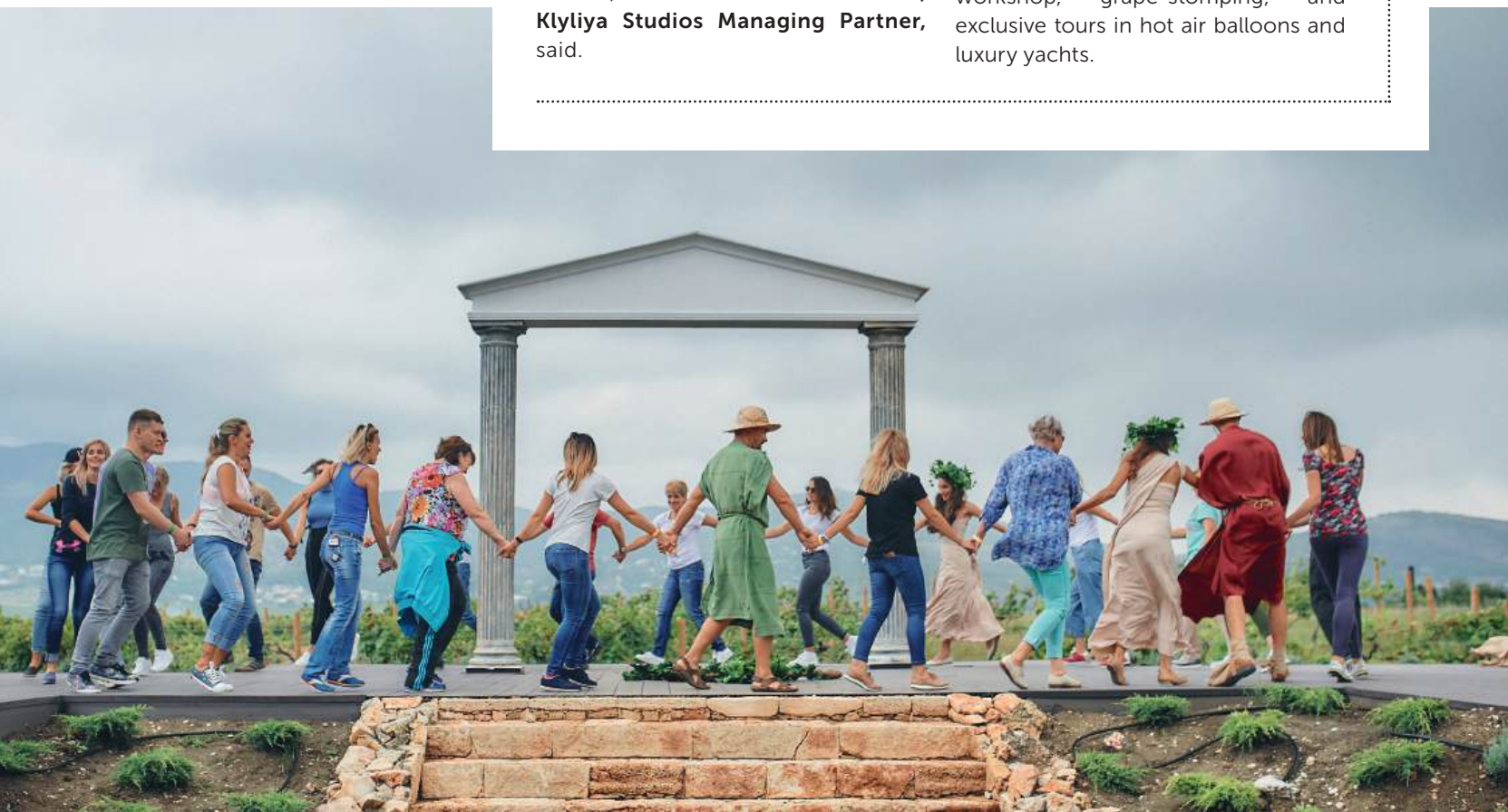
Enjoy an immersive tour of a private winery and sample select wines and Crimean cheeses, accompanied by an interactive theatrical performance with actors portraying Ancient Greeks and Dionysus. Together, these gustatory, aesthetic, visual and emotional experiences create an unforgettable blend.

"We offer these tours to small groups, and they must book them well in advance. Most of our guests know their way around wine and expect a certain level of luxury and service. The wine sector has made great strides in our country over the past ten years, which means that people desire more than just a simple tasting session. Once you offer them a high level of service, a refined setting and an enhanced tasting experience, coupled with a theatrical performance and a quest – this is the way to attract visitors," **Alexander Kolusenko, Klyliya Studios Managing Partner**, said.

The theatrical component is essential for creating an immersive experience, since the tour is designed to generate positive emotions to make our taste buds work even better.

"We offer several options depending on what our guests want, and the time we have for the performance, as well as depending on the platform. But no matter the scenario, we adjust it ahead of every tour and can add new characters to it. Of course, improvising is an important element in any immersive show, since it is difficult to predict how guests will respond. Therefore, actors must be ready to face all kinds of situations while also keeping in mind the scenario's general outline. People tend to prefer performances based on myths about Dionysus and Maenad, his female companion, or historical characters. We employ professional actors who must be responsive and have a good sense of humour.

The programme can include additional services, such as a face-to-face session with a winemaker, a winemaking workshop, grape-stomping, and exclusive tours in hot air balloons and luxury yachts.



Artek:

Shaping futures across a century

Text: Ivan Kovalenko,
Diana Maslova

Photo: Gala Amarando,
Ivan Kovalenko,
Press Service of the
International Children's
Centre Artek

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTEK, THE LEGENDARY INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE IN CRIMEA. TO CELEBRATE, WE'RE EMBARKING ON A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME TO EXPLORE HOW THE "CHILDHOOD REPUBLIC" HAS SHAPED GENERATIONS.

TODAY, ARTEK IS MORE THAN A CAMP; IT'S A LAUNCHPAD FOR THE FUTURE - WITH DIGITAL WORKSHOPS, SPACE EXPLORATION EXHIBITS, HIGH-TECH FACILITIES, THEATRE PRODUCTIONS AND RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS.

Simple, yet good

When Artek opened on June 16, 1925, with the Red Cross flag fluttering on the flagpole, its first 80 children – arriving from central Russia – were housed in large canvas tents, each filled with 20 wooden trestle beds. The pioneers slept on "mattresses stuffed with sea grass and a single feather pillow," but their bedlinens were new: a pillowcase and two sheets, plus two blankets – one thick cotton, one wool – to keep them warm. Each child at the brand-new pioneer camp and health retreat received a set of linen underwear and a white wide-brimmed hat.



A model of the 1925 camp

“The food is good”

The dining area was arranged not far from the tents, with a canopy stretched above wooden benches and tables covered with snow-white tablecloths. Everyone used a set of “an earthenware dish and a tea cup, a spoon, a knife, a fork and a napkin ring.” Although devastated by wars and crop failures, the country was able to provide those children with five meals a day, including homemade pastries, fresh vegetables and fruits. “The food is good,” a boy happily tells his parents. “The average weight gain is 2.4 kilos per month,” the head of the camp reports.



In early 1945, Artek hosted a large group of children decorated with military awards.

Photo: Boris Kosarev



A traverse to Altai

When the Great Patriotic War broke out, all the pioneers were sent home – except for 200 children from already occupied western regions, who had nowhere to return. They had to be evacuated. Packing the Artek flag, the group was first relocated to the Moscow Region, then to Kazan, and finally across Siberia to Belokurikha, a remote village in Altai. For three years, the pioneers continued their studies while working to support soldiers on the frontlines. Only when the enemy was pushed back from Soviet borders did these now-grown children reunite with their families.

Partisans and Clementine

Artek's revival began in the spring of 1944, as soon as Nazi forces were driven into the sea near Sevastopol. By August, the camp welcomed 300 children of Crimean partisans and young war participants for its first post-invasion session. The following spring, Clementine Churchill, the wife of the British Prime Minister, visited the camp bringing sturdy high-capacity tents from the British Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund, which she chaired – those shelters would serve as dormitories for a good 15 years.





Artek today

The legendary children's camp has grown with truly cosmic ambitions. The present-day children's centre incorporates 11 camps, complete with a school, a hospital, a film studio, and a yacht club – in addition to the space museum.

From 2014 to 2024, Artek hosted 346,749 children, with annual participation skyrocketing from just 6,000 in 2014 to nearly 45,000 in 2025, welcoming youth from across Russia and beyond.

An ambitious renovation project began in autumn 2014; by now, nine camps have been refurbished, including Kiparisny, Lazurny, Lesnoi, Morskoi, Ozerny, Polevoi,

100 YEARS OF ARTEK

ARTEK IN NUMBERS

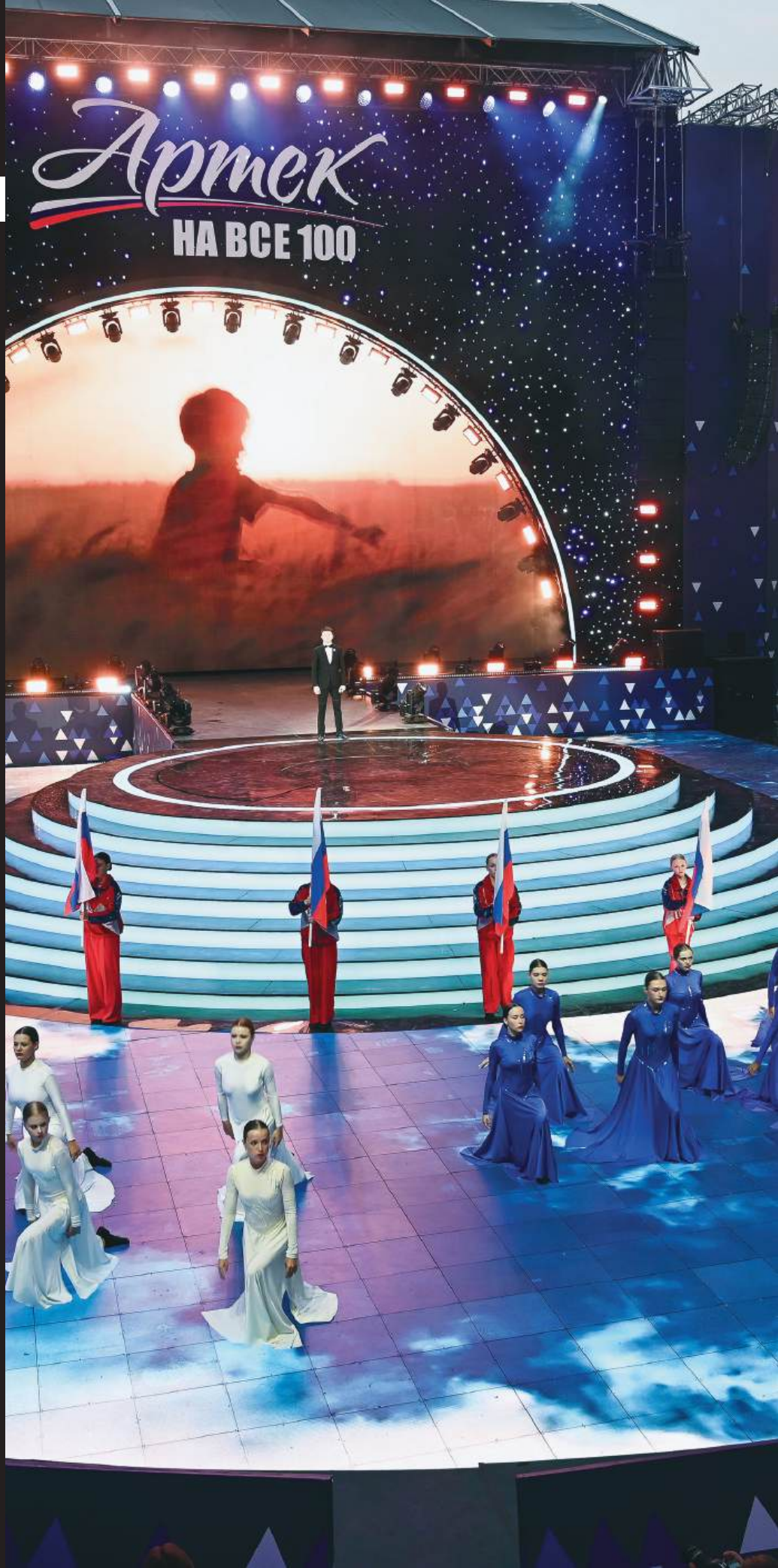
**218 HECTARES
TOTAL AREA**

**102 HECTARES
OF PARKLAND**

**33 FACILITIES BUILT
OR UPGRADED
DURING THE 2014-
2025 RENOVATION
(INCLUDING CAMPS,
ACADEMIC BUILDINGS,
A TECHNOLOGY PARK
AND THE SOLNECHNY
SCHOOL)**

**2025 MILESTONES:
OPENING OF
SOLNECHNY CAMP
NEW 1,200-SEAT CENTRE
FOR INNOVATIVE
EDUCATIONAL
TECHNOLOGIES
FEATURING A
MULTIPURPOSE
AUDITORIUM, AN
AMPHITHEATRE, AND
WORKSHOP SPACES**

**SUMMER 2024: ARTEK
HOSTED OVER 12,000
CHILDREN, INCLUDING
1,000 INTERNATIONAL
PARTICIPANTS FROM
68 COUNTRIES**





Rechnoi, Khrustalny and Yantarny. The 1,000-place Solnechny camp will reopen shortly, to become a platform for testing new teaching strategies. All buildings have been either overhauled or built from scratch, featuring spacious dormitories for 4-6 people, lounge areas, modern cafes, and sparkling swimming pools. "Over the past 11 years, we've not just rebuilt it from ruins – we've become one of Russia's foremost cultural and educational symbols," Director Konstantin Fedorenko observed.

A beacon of innovation

Artek's most striking transformation lies in its embrace of cutting-edge technology and science. The centre now features fully-equipped technology parks where children explore robotics, 3D modelling, programming, and unmanned systems in a playful environment, under the guidance of passionate instructors. Through its AI and engineering labs, Artek has forged powerful partnerships with leading universities and tech corporations.

The camp has a professional-grade media studio where young filmmakers master everything from video editing to podcast production under the mentorship of renowned journalists, actors, and directors. Artek's theatre now stages ambitious productions ranging from world classics to avant-garde musicals.

Despite the sanctions, groups from the CIS countries, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East continue to visit Artek. All programmes focus on intercultural communication, from language exchanges to country-focused events. Here, friendship is not a slogan, but a way of life.





Learning is light

Artek's school is a source of special pride. The innovative programme offers flexible tracks in humanities or STEM fields enriched by guidance from working professionals and researchers. Cutting-edge classrooms feature the latest technology, while personalised mentoring ensures each student's growth. The campus boasts exceptional lab facilities. In 2016, Artek introduced advanced physics and chemistry classrooms designed to meet the highest educational standards. These were soon complemented by new biology and robotics labs. In 2021, the school launched Crimea's first nuclear studies classroom, featuring industry-grade equipment.

Beyond the classroom, Artek's extracurricular centre provides 103 programmes spanning the arts and sports. Students can also choose between specialised thematic groups during their sessions at Artek. Options range from marine studies and medical training to tourism,





environmental stewardship, visual media, theatre, DJs, and even the popular KVN comedy game.

Through the Roscosmos space agency's Space One project, Artek children design rockets and satellites, study spacecraft systems, and meet cosmonauts like Dmitry Matveyev. The 2024 thematic session, First in Space, Best in the World, saw participants constructing functional mini-satellites and hydropneumatic models. For Artek's centenary, the Artek 100% Space-π competition gave winners an extraordinary opportunity: their drawings were engraved on the HyperView-1G satellite made in Samara before its orbital launch.

The Artek.Eco initiative transforms students into active guardians of nature. Their expeditions, research, and marine ecosystem monitoring projects foster deep environmental consciousness.

For active and athletic teenagers, Artek offers seven dedicated sports and fitness programmes supported by outstanding facilities: nine sports grounds, three outdoor pools with waterslides, a climbing wall, a rope park and a major sports centre housing two indoor swimming pools, a gym, and tennis courts. The complex also features a central stadium – a 7,000-seat venue built to international competition standards.

The Artek campus further ensures student wellbeing with a cutting-edge medical centre staffed by highly qualified physicians.



FUN THINGS TO DO ON A WEEKEND

MUSEUMS:

*unusual and
mysterious*

Text: Diana Maslova

Photo: Yevgeny Letov, Mikhail Gladchuk

TALKING DRUMS, ANCIENT
ANCHORS, HOUSEHOLD
SPIRITS, PIRATES AND SOVIET
CHILDHOOD: CM EXPLORED SOME
OF THE MOST UNUSUAL MUSEUMS
CURRENTLY FOUND IN CRIMEA.



WORLD LANGUAGES MUSEUM

Press and listen

A museum located in Zelenogorye, a scenic area surrounded by waterfalls, lakes and mountains, focuses on languages. Its display presents every language that exists in the world, including unique whistling languages and Asian tune names, giant languages as well as extinct, revived, sacred, artificial and forbidden languages.

The museum's founder, Yevgeny Gavrilov, says that the idea originated from his travels and linguistic research.

"My colleagues, philologists, and I travelled to dozens of countries," he recalls. "We brought back unique manuscripts on palm leaves, the Taoist Jade Book in Heaven, and several Buddhist (Burmese) manuscripts. Our fascination with languages





INTERESTING TO KNOW

- In the Forbidden Speech section, visitors can listen to such languages as Kambaata. According to an Ethiopian tradition, once married, a woman can no longer use words beginning with the same syllables as the names of her husband's parents. Meanwhile, a man and his mother-in-law cannot speak in each other's presence.
- In some parts of the world, people can communicate fully and expressively by whistling.
- The museum has an interactive model of an optical telegraph based on a long-distance communication technology dating back to the first half of the 20th century, before the wire telegraph was invented.

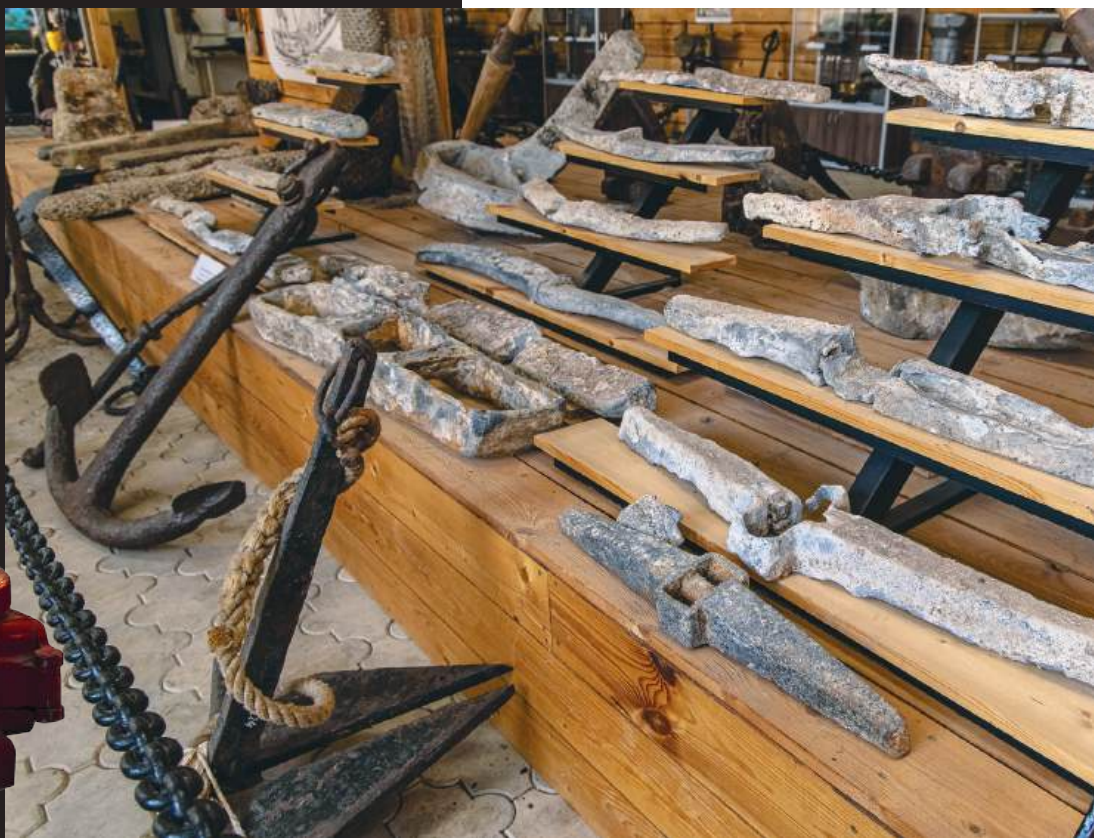
Address:
15 Vodopadnaya St., Zelenogorye.

and the field that explores how language affects consciousness helped us to conceptualise this unique museum."

Only a few of the exhibits are enclosed in glass cases; most of them are interactive. Visitors can play a linguistic game on a tablet, trying to guess which nations use the recorded speech samples, or spin a book wheel, use a typewriter, make a phone call and hear a native speaker of almost any language talk.

"From an educational point of view, the most important display focuses on linguistic diversity,"

Yevgeny says. "It has 16 sections, and you can listen to each one. These are dedicated to giant languages, whistling languages, revived languages, sacred languages, nearly extinct languages, ancient languages, Slavic languages and others. Besides, among the artefacts on display are unique palm leaf books, jade tablets, a Phaistos disc, and Tibetan prayer drums. One of the museum's proprietary developments is an interactive map of world languages. By pressing a point on the map, you can get information about the number of speakers of a particular language and its status".



MUSEUM OF THE ANCHOR

Sailor's last hope

Viktor Gustoy from Kerch has assembled a unique collection of 150 anchors to demonstrate the evolution of anchor-making from antiquity to the present day. In addition, the museum has over 1,000 maritime artefacts from different epochs on display. The collection is valuable and unique even by world standards.

The collector finds his exhibits at metal depots, fishing moorings and farms. For example, he discovered a 2,000-year-old lead anchor in a local diver's vegetable garden. Anchors from ships that sank in the Volga in the 19th century make up an important part of his collection. One of them weighs almost 1.5 tonnes, another is square-shaped, which is highly unusual. A trophy WWII German anchor leaves few people unimpressed; Soviet sailors sank many German ships in the Azov and Black Seas, and fishermen still find their anchors. Visitors marvel at the





INTERESTING TO KNOW

- The anchor was an essential, life-and-death piece on a ship, literally worshipped by the crew. Before installing a new anchor, marked with the manufacturer's brand, a sacred rite was performed on it.
- The museum also showcases lead anchor stocks, which are of special interest to scholars. For example, based on a two-metre-long stock, they can deduce that the size of the anchor was five metres and the wooden ship that used that anchor was up to 100 metres long.

Address: 48 Ordzhonikidze St., Kerch.

Directions: Parkovaya stop, Nautical Department, University Bldg. 2. Admission is free, but registration is required.

oldest anchor, which is simply a stone tied with a liana. The collection includes Byzantine anchors – the first steel anchors in the world, depicted on ancient Chersonese coins from the 2nd-3rd century BC. The coins were unearthed during the construction of the Novy Khersones (New Chersonesos) theme park.

When you feel you've seen a few too many anchors for one day, you can move on to other nautical items:

"We have oars, sailing ship models, an old crane, a fisherman statue, sea rigging, cannonballs, Soviet, German and English ship lanterns, and navigational instruments – 19th-century sextants, direction finders, and compasses. There is a fascinating collection of clocks from different periods – sundials, sand clocks, officers' clocks, cabin clocks, as well as ship's bells, which visitors can actually strike, pretending to be sailors making a signal for each succeeding half hour," Viktor says.





MUSEUM OF SOVIET CHILDHOOD

Forward to the past

When purchasing the family eco-park, **Nikolai Pomogalov** thought about the Soviet workers who built this children's theme park in the past. He decided to open a museum to display some collected items from his own childhood, the 1960s and 1970s.

Younger visitors growing up in an advanced technology era find this place unique and unusual, but for the older generation, it is a source of pleasant nostalgia. Here you can see antique toys, crockery, trumpets, coins, badges, radios, cameras and household items. After the tour, you can play Naval Combat on a Soviet slot machine, sit at a school desk and eat that very same Soviet ice cream.





"Interestingly, for different people, different things bring back their childhood," the eco-park director says. "For some, it is that very same lemonade or chocolate, for others, an old radio set does the trick. In addition to the slot machines, many of our visitors stop by the school desk to reminisce about their school days. Younger people visit us to tinker with Soviet equipment and to figure out how it worked."



INTERESTING TO KNOW

- The museum has soda machines that were popular in Soviet times. Visitors can taste real Soviet soda for a token fee.
- In the photo zone, visitors are invited to try on Soviet-era clothes and accessories and pose against the background of antique objects and settings.
- The museum's extensive collection of toys from the 1960s and 1980s includes dolls, cars, board games, stuffed animals and mechanical toys.
- Many of the items are extremely rare and difficult to find in good condition. The museum offers workshops on making toys and other items popular during the Soviet era.

Address:
Lukomorye Eco-Park, 1a Pobedy Ave.,
Sevastopol.

MUSEUM OF ROCKS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES

What embraced eternity brooks no fuss

This magnificent collection of more than 1,000 precious stones, gemstones, minerals, rocks, semi-precious stones and meteorites from all over the world will not leave anyone indifferent.

Each exhibit has a story behind it. The collection includes kimberlites from which diamonds are extracted, red bubbly lava from Madagascar, which turns into pumice after solidification, fluorites, an ammonite – a gift from an Emergencies Ministry rescuer with a passion for excavations, Crimean corals, and oil from the Tyumen Region. Exotic and radioactive minerals such as torbernite arouse genuine visitor interest. A fascinating collection of sand from different corners of the globe is still in the making.





INTERESTING TO KNOW

- The museum presents fragments of meteorites from different parts of the world, including a fragment of the Sikhote-Alin meteorite that fell in the Far East in 1947. Meteorites offer opportunities to learn more about the cosmic origin of certain minerals.
- Some of the exhibits are artefacts, such as ancient amulets and gemstone jewellery.
- Giant crystals of quartz, amethyst and rock crystal are very impressive. Some crystals are more than half a metre in size, and exhibit amazing purity and transparency.
- The museum contains some rare items such as samples from deposits that have long been depleted or shut down, such as fluorites from England, tourmalines from Madagascar and spinel from Burma (now Myanmar).
- In the interactive zones, visitors can learn to identify different types of minerals and participate in stone processing and jewellery making workshops.

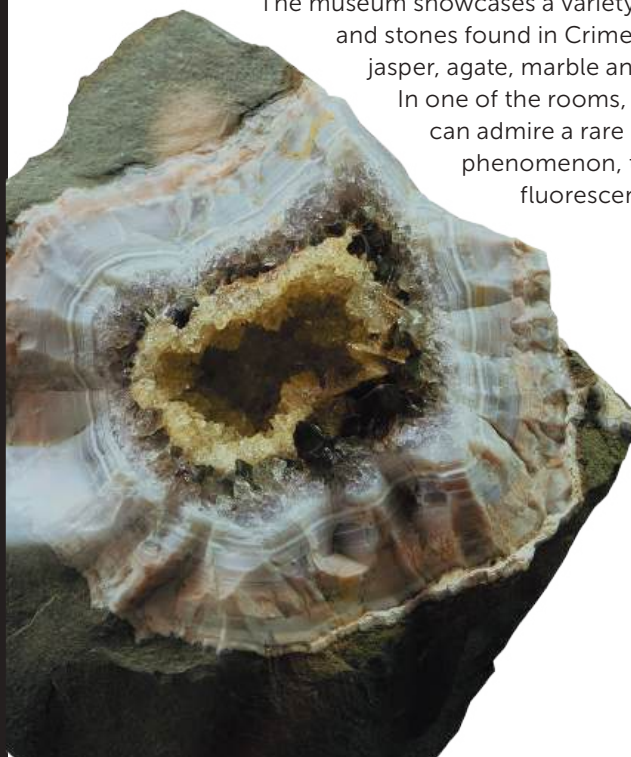
Address:
6a Lenina St., Alushta.



*"Grape chalcedony from Indonesia is of special interest. It has an unusual spherical shape and shines beautifully. Our compatriots in Indonesia descend into caves to retrieve rare minerals, some of which we were fortunate to purchase. Besides that, we take part in auctions and visit exhibitions; we also often accept items as donations," director **Mikhail Krasnenkov** says. "Stones are brought to us from Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Pakistan, Germany, the Dominican Republic, Madagascar and the Urals. We also cooperate with the meteorite museum, which provides products and certificates."*

The museum showcases a variety of minerals and stones found in Crimea including jasper, agate, marble and onyx.

In one of the rooms, visitors can admire a rare natural phenomenon, the glow of fluorescent minerals.





MUSEUM OF PIRATES OF THE BLACK SEA Flying a scull and crossbones flag

Yevpatoria has a unique museum that focuses on hunting for and retrieving evidence of pirates operating in the Black Sea in the past. There are two exhibition rooms in the basement. Inside, you will see weapons, jewellery, pirate flags, old maps of the Black and Mediterranean seas, charts of historical campaigns, battles, and trade routes, as well as the Pirate Code. The display covers various historical periods when piracy was widespread in this region, including the times of Cossack raids and the corsairs of the Ottoman Empire.

"There are fewer and fewer marine artefacts found on the seabed, so I mostly search for new items online, or by word of mouth now," collector Sergei Savinov says. "One interesting item is a pewter cup adorned with patterns and graphics. It is at least 170 years old and was retrieved from a sunken French ship. Surprisingly, the vessel has been well preserved. Some truly remarkable porcelain items were left by an Indian company that navigated the Black Sea. When visitors see crockery recovered from shipwrecks, they wonder how it survived. We know that most pirates were poor and lived in harsh ascetic conditions, but we can see that some of them did enjoy a





INTERESTING TO KNOW

- Visitors can not only see ancient weapons, maps and ship models, but also try on pirate costumes and take part in games.
- Anyone who enjoys puzzles and adventures is welcome to visit the museum's quest room, which is decorated in the style of a pirate ship. To complete the quest, participants must solve puzzles and search for clues to find treasure or escape from pirate captivity.
- The museum includes areas where visitors can try being a ship captain, learn to use navigational instruments or shoot at virtual targets with toy cannons.
- The museum features a collection of antique coins and jewellery associated with pirate treasures – gold doubloons, silver piastres and various pieces of jewellery.

Address:
56 Revolutsii St., Yevpatoria.



glamorous life and fine things, bringing along unique, expensive and fragile objects despite all the challenges of living at sea".

While the collection is expanding, the founder focuses on the educational aspect of the museum, offering tours to school groups and conducting sailor's knot-tying workshops.



Indulge

INTO A SEA OF SECLUSION

Text: Yeva Peresichan

Photo: Yevgeny Letov, Ivan Kovalenko, Vladimir Ivanov

DISCOVER THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA, WHERE HISTORY AND NATURE INTERTWINE, AND MODERN LUXURY RESORTS RISE NEXT TO WILD, UNTOUCHED LANDSCAPES. ESCAPE INTO RETREATS OF SERENITY, WHERE TIME SLOWS AND THE BUSTLE OF TODAY GIVES WAY TO THE QUIET RHYTHM OF NATURE. ENJOY THE UNSPOILED BEAUTY OF LONG SECLUDED BEACHES, WHERE THE ONLY SOUNDS ARE WHISPERING WAVES AND BIRDSONG, AND FEEL THE LIGHTNESS OF A WANDERER, NOT A TOURIST.



Beaches in Katsiveli

This long string of beaches separated by breakwaters offers secluded solace and a choice of textures. Whether you want to luxuriate on soft volcanic sand or sit on sun-warmed pebbles gazing at the endless blue, Katsiveli will give it to you.

You can descend the stairs to the sea, each step offering a wider view, or stroll by an abandoned Soviet-time recreation facility, catching distinct echoes of the past.

44.391767, 33.967675

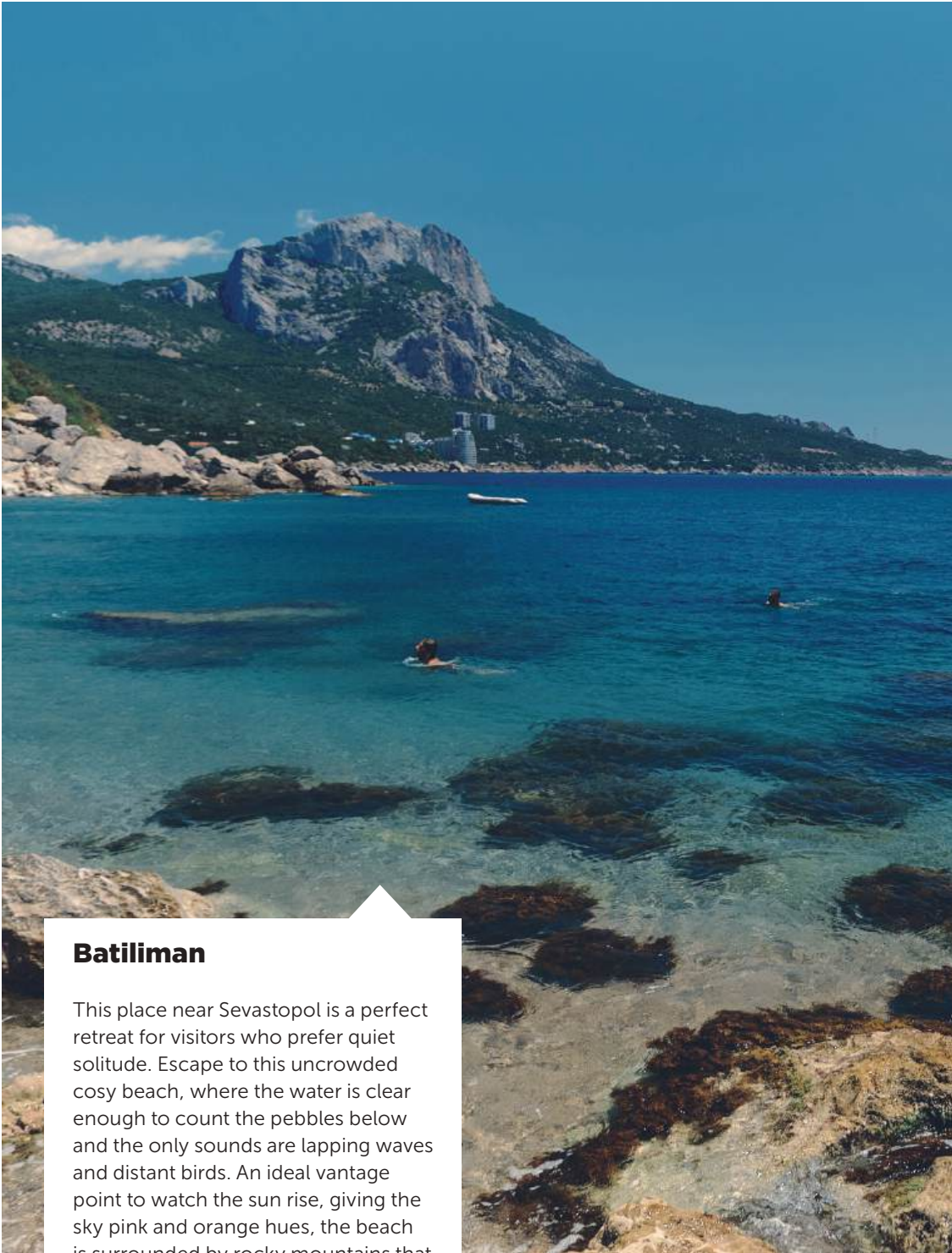


Dalny Inzhir

The best vantage point to watch dolphins playing in the waves, this beach is surrounded by lush green hills, which make the water change its colour from soft blue to emerald. It is located in the unique Ayazma tract known for its rare vegetation.

You can reach it by boat from Balaklava or take the hiking trail. The beach has natural springs and several observation decks, which offer a scenic view of the sea and mountains.

44.463222, 33.639704

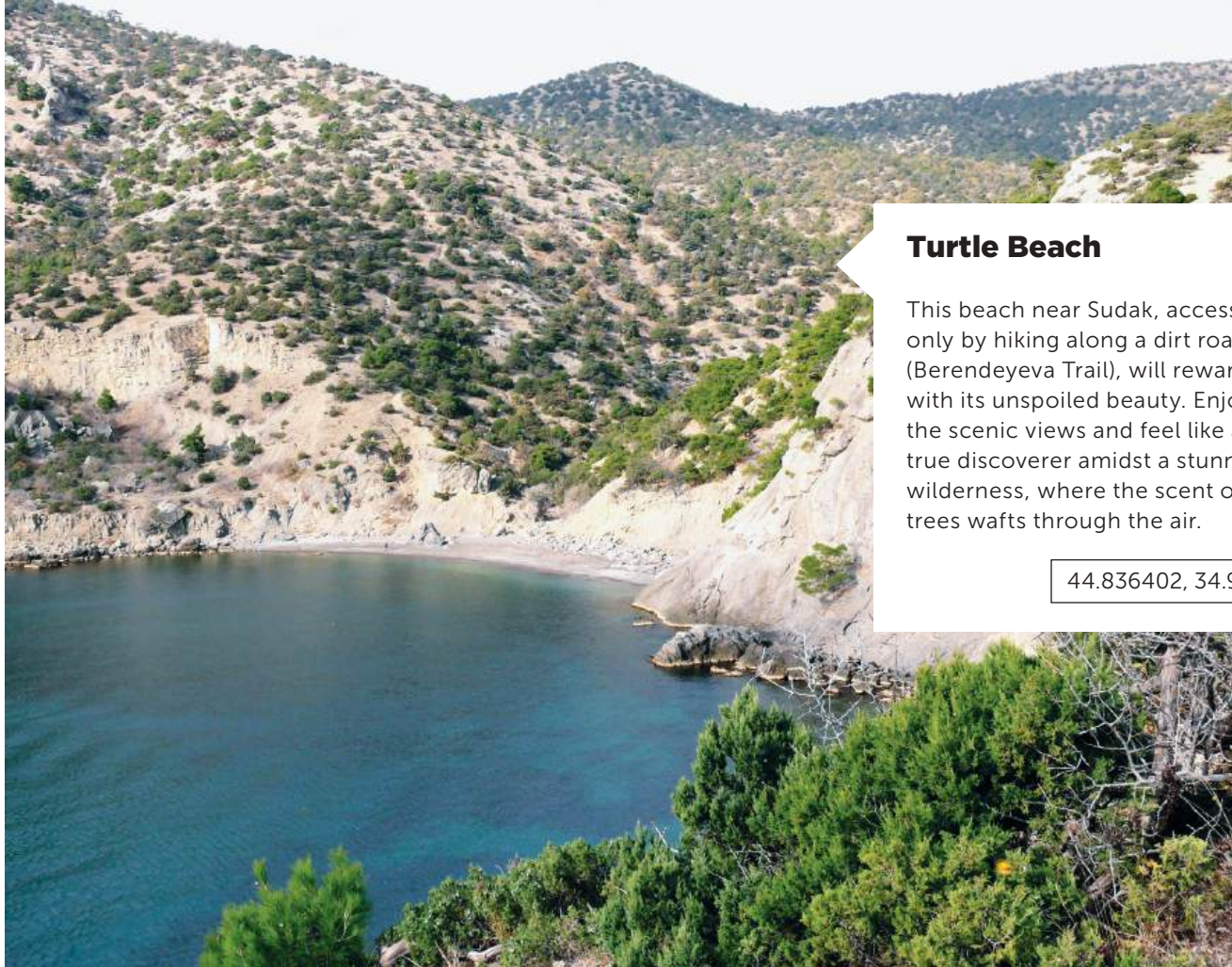


Batiliman

This place near Sevastopol is a perfect retreat for visitors who prefer quiet solitude. Escape to this uncrowded cosy beach, where the water is clear enough to count the pebbles below and the only sounds are lapping waves and distant birds. An ideal vantage point to watch the sun rise, giving the sky pink and orange hues, the beach is surrounded by rocky mountains that protect it from the wind.

44.418435, 33.686442





Turtle Beach

This beach near Sudak, accessible only by hiking along a dirt road (Berendeyeva Trail), will reward you with its unspoiled beauty. Enjoy the scenic views and feel like a true discoverer amidst a stunning wilderness, where the scent of pine trees wafts through the air.

44.836402, 34.940115

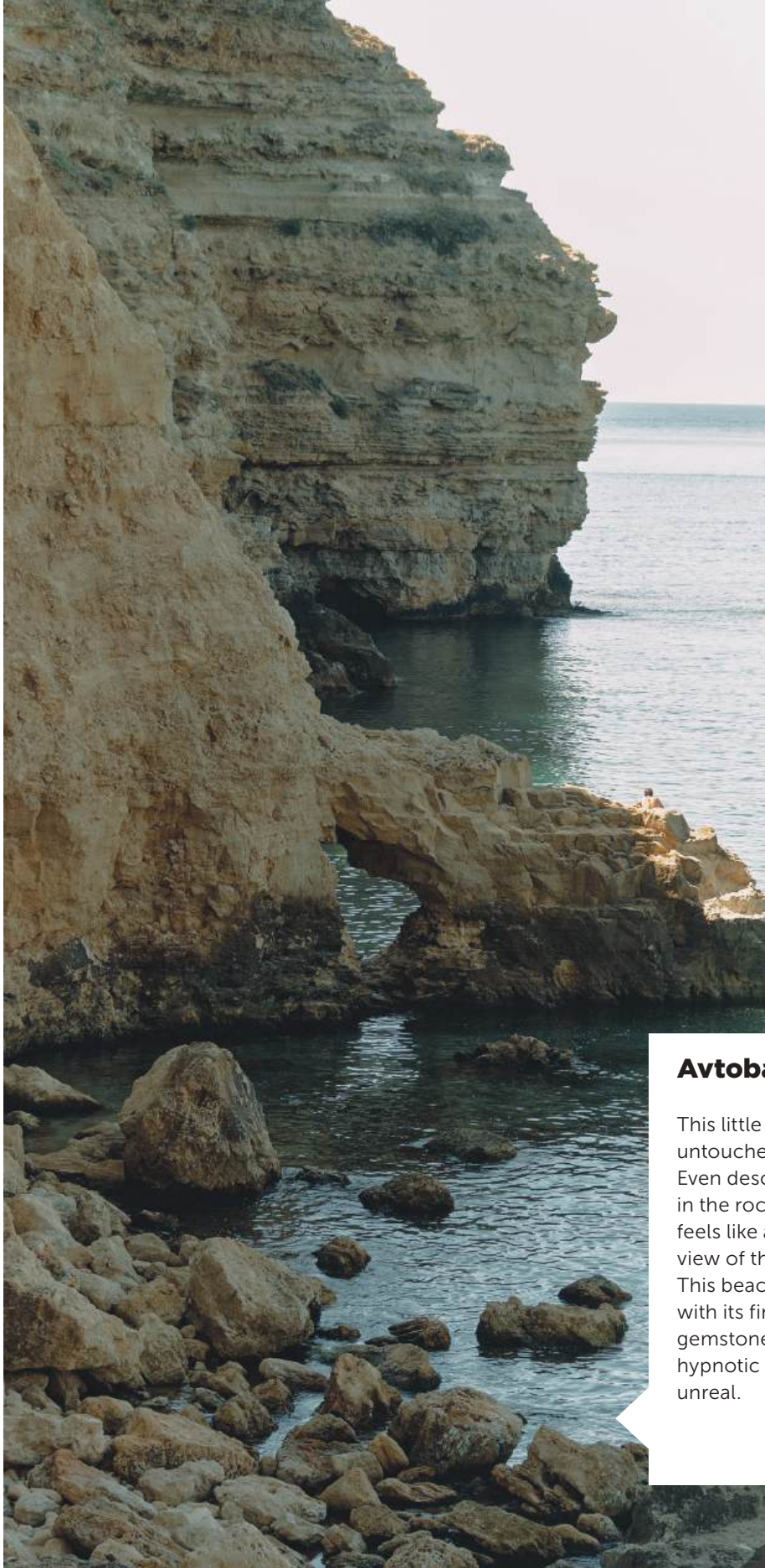


Agate Beach

Hidden in a secluded cove, this stone gallery in Ordzhonikidze, surrounded by rocky mountains, creates a safe harbour protected from the wind and waves.

With its clear water and the opportunity to see dolphins frolicking close to the shore, this beach is an ideal place for snorkelling and diving enthusiasts.

44.956359, 35.358944



Avtobat Beach

This little paradise in Sevastopol offers untouched coves with crystal-clear water. Even descending the spiral staircase hidden in the rock to a tiny cove on Cape Fiolent feels like a real adventure. The fantastic view of the sea leaves no one unmoved. This beach looks like a fairy tale setting, with its fine pebbles shimmering like gemstones in the sunlight and the sea a hypnotic ultramarine, so transparent it feels unreal.

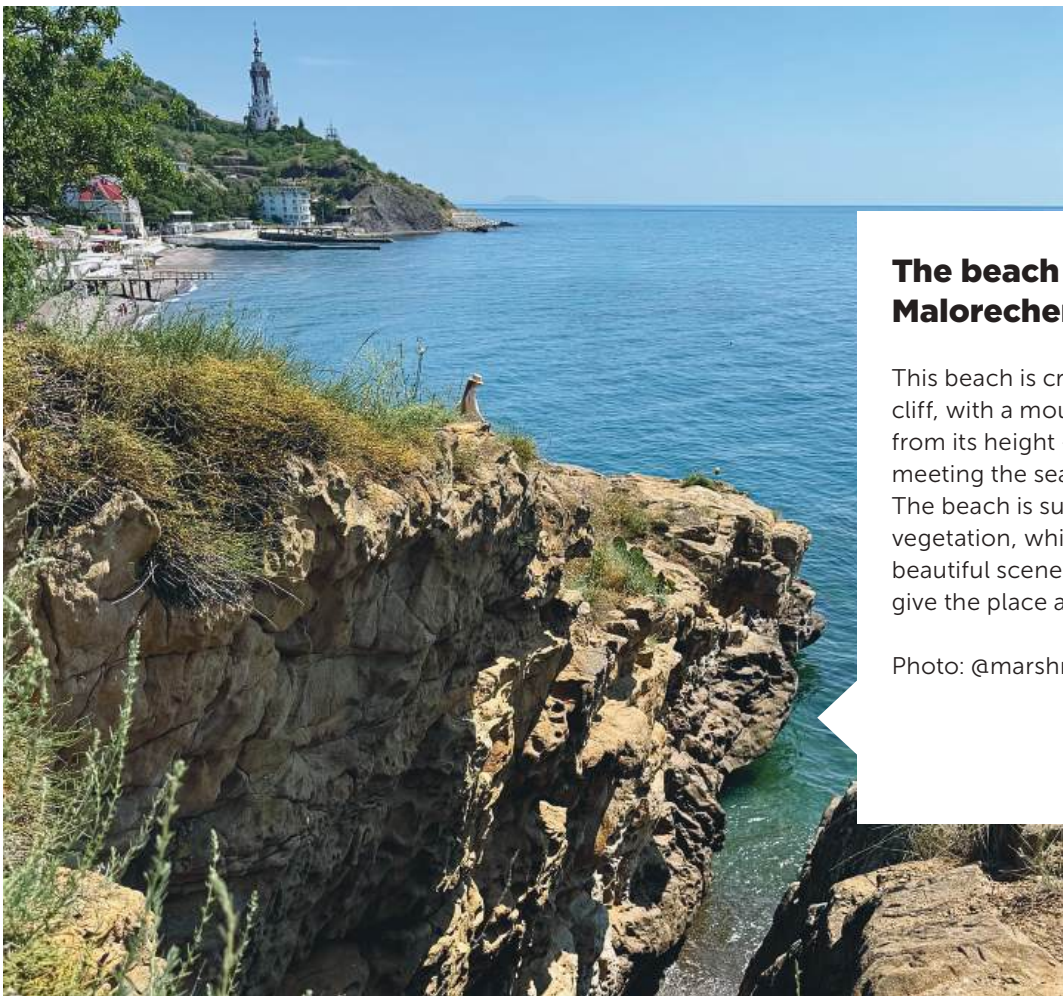
44.545727, 33.428510



Love Cove

This secluded cove in Novy Svet protected by cliffs has a picturesque beach surrounded by juniper trees. The clear water invites you to plunge deep and uncover the secrets it holds. Huge boulders and freshwater springs add to the atmosphere of romance, mystery and seclusion.

44.831739, 34.927618



The beach in Malorechenskoye

This beach is crowned by a towering cliff, with a mountain stream leaping from its height – a small waterfall meeting the sea in a sigh of mist. The beach is surrounded by exotic vegetation, while its clear water, beautiful scenery and Cheese Rock give the place a special ambience.

Photo: @marshrut_m

44.956359, 35.358944

A KALEIDOSCOPE OF DISHES, *epochs and moods*

DINING IN CRIMEA: A LEGENDARY
HISTORY OF THE EXCLUSIVE
AND EXTRAORDINARY

Text: Ivan Kovalenko

Photo: Ivan Kovalenko, Gala Amarando



Reaching the unusual restaurant in the middle of the sea was a truly unique and challenging experience.

The Rock of Adalara, where enterprising Praskovya Tikunova built her restaurant, Venice, in the early 20th century, almost a kilometre away from the shore.

A GLIMPSE OF VENICE IN CRIMEA

Yalta has always gone out of its way to underscore its elegance and style, with fine dining establishments playing a major role in that effort. Location was one of the most important factors in a restaurant's prestige. For example, the Venice restaurant was perched atop of one of the Twin Rocks of Adalara in Gurzuf Bay. Like in real Venice, patrons were restaurant located on the island and back by

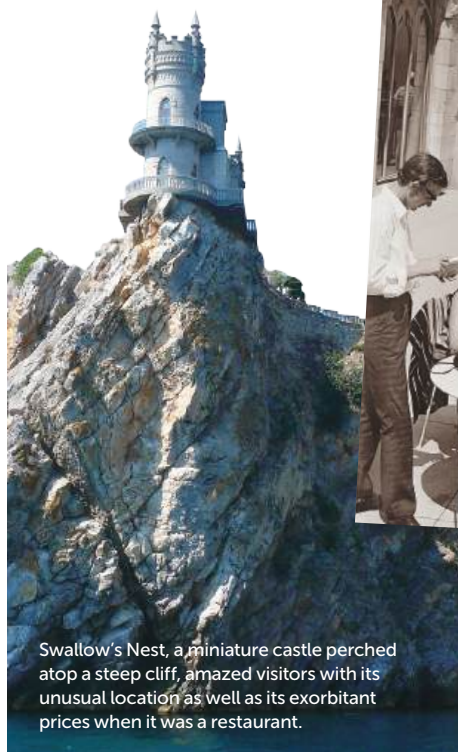
rowboats steered by "gondoliers." The menu primarily featured produce from the sea, as well as offerings from local gardens and vineyards.

The idea proved so successful that the owner, Praskovya Tikunova, started building a ropeway to offer her customers an easier way to reach her restaurant. However, this ambitious project never came to fruition, hampered by the social upheavals of the early 20th century, and was ultimately abandoned after an earthquake loosened the rock in 1927.

A COLLAPSED NEST

The New Economic Policy announced by the Communist government breathed new life into many exotic luxury projects. In the spring of 1927, a canteen-restaurant opened at Swallow's Nest, a former summer residence on top of a tall cliff. However, the Swallow project was short-lived: in September, an earthquake caused part of the building's tower to collapse into the sea. It was a miracle that nobody was hurt, as the public left just ten minutes before the main tremor occurred.

The castle was not rebuilt for another half a century. In 1971, major renovations finally gave Swallow's Nest its modern look. The restaurant reopened to epitomise a glamorous lifestyle for the next few decades. In the 1990s, Italian cuisine replaced post-Soviet recipes, but in 2011, the Crimean government shut it down to repurpose the premises for a cultural centre.



Swallow's Nest, a miniature castle perched atop a steep cliff, amazed visitors with its unusual location as well as its exorbitant prices when it was a restaurant.



In the early 1970s, the restaurant on the cliff reopened.

The pine forest near the Uchan-Su waterfall provided a luxurious setting for the Lesnoy restaurant.



The menu was very creative and fully matched the unusual surroundings.



YALTA, A GASTRO BRAND

In Soviet times, the Swallow's Nest restaurant had a rival – Karagol, aka Lesnoy. This stylish log building was erected in 1967, not far from the Uchan-Su waterfall, on the shore of a forest lake inhabited by tame swans. The menu complemented the elegant setting, featuring quail as a casserole in a pot with a porcini mushroom sauce, or roasted on a spit with sour cream sauce. Guests savoured lamb shashlik served on portable braziers accented with stuffed grouse for visual appeal. A cage with trout floated in the lake, and the hors d'oeuvres were artfully presented, with green branches laid out on a tray and a small tree stump supporting a plate of salad.

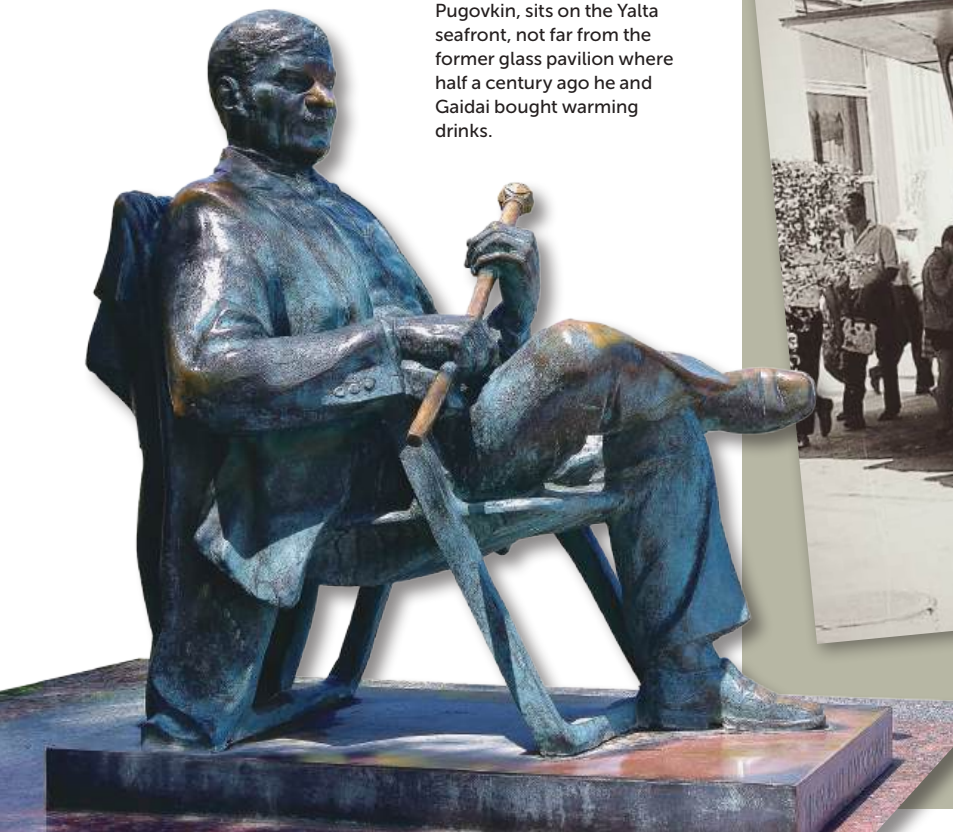
The party came to an end with the onset of rampant capitalism and a massive redistribution of property, then the beautiful restaurant burned to the ground.



The concept of broth in Yalta unexpectedly surfaced on the packaging of meat broth concentrate produced by the Liebig company (Belgium, late 19th century), which says "Winter in the Land of the Sun. Yalta seafront (Crimea)."

Cooking instructions: "Seasoned with vegetables and spices. One-minute broth. Add 1.5-2 coffee spoonfuls of concentrate to a cup of warm water and enjoy a delicious broth."

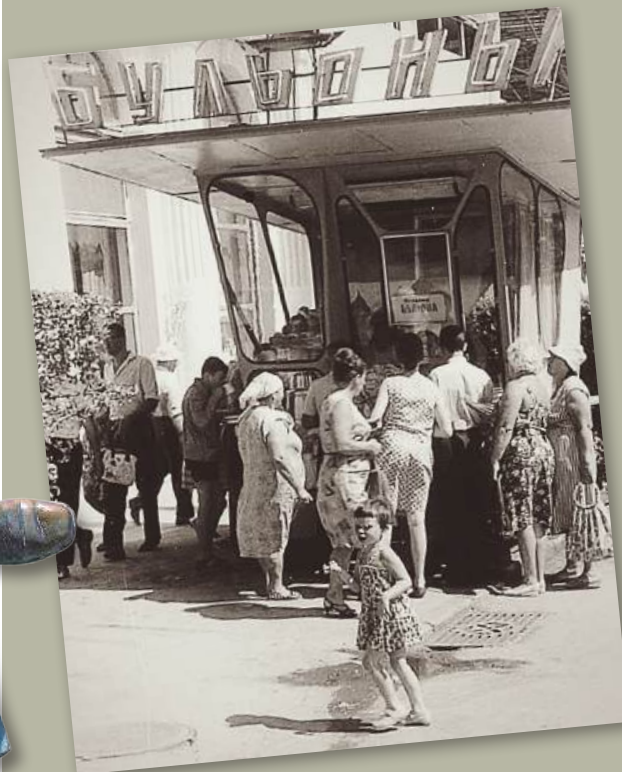
The bronze statue of Director Yakin, portrayed by Mikhail "King of Comedy" Pugovkin, sits on the Yalta seafront, not far from the former glass pavilion where half a century ago he and Gaidai bought warming drinks.



THE CLOSEST THING TO MODERN-DAY FAST FOOD

Dining was always diverse at Crimean resorts, with high-end restaurants operating side by side with fast-food pavilions – essentially the precursors to the modern fast-food segment. The long seafront housed numerous Bulion-Pirozhki (Broth and Pies) kiosks, Gribki (Mushrooms) and a nameless glass pavilion known as Steklyashka (Bauble).

Cheap diners have etched their place in national culture. Yury Vizbor, the iconic poet and major influence on the Soviet intelligentsia, immortalised the stall that sold hot broth in his song November in Yalta. Nobel Prize winner Joseph Brodsky placed the characters Poet and Faust in his poem A Winter Evening in Yalta in one of these cheap restaurants. Director Leonid Gaidai and actor Mikhail Pugovkin warmed themselves up with strong drinks here while filming a scene from Ivan Vasilievich Changes His Profession in the biting wind.



The kiosks selling "beef broth" from stock cubes and pies were loved by Soviet people for several decades.



Bubny, a cafe opened by enterprising Alexander Sinopli in his native town of Koktebel, became the local cultural centre. The best Silver Age poets would not consider passing by without eating a cheburek, having a glass of good wine and reciting poetry at this cafe.

*Max Voloshin still welcomes his
guests in his Koktebel house.
His poetic talent was multifaceted,
producing anything from
philosophical sonnets to advertising
couplets for the Bubny cafe:*

*Oh, juicy sausage boiled at leisure,
Forever be my stomach's pleasure.*

*In Koktebel, in searing heat, I swear,
It's just so nice to eat another pear.*

*My friend, the higher your IQ,
The sweeter your dessert to chew.*

A COSY PLACE

Creative restaurateurs were by no means concentrated solely along Crimea's southern coastline. In 1912, Alexander Sinopli from Koktebel opened a café, Bubny, in his native village. The St. Petersburg beau monde who visited poet Maximilian Voloshin [during his stay in Crimea] loved both the form and the content of the new place. The best Silver Age poets would not even consider passing by without enjoying a cheburek meat pie, having a glass of good wine and reciting poetry at this café. Live recitals graced its modest stage, with verses like "Here, my mother-in-law and I drank two cups of coffee, why" inscribed on the walls.

Voloshin's Koktebel brotherhood convincingly refuted the notion that the muses go silent "when the cannons are heard." In the midst of the Civil War, another literary and theatre group formed in Feodosia, where the local creative intelligentsia gathered at the Cup of Tea cafe. The menu was not extensive, but exquisite in its own way, with Turkish coffee and mussels served with barley porridge.

HISTORY IN DETAILS

The arch marking the Baydar Gate was erected in 1848, shortly after the road linking Sevastopol with the southern coastline was built.



The breathtaking view that opened from the observation deck stirred tired travellers' appetite –



– and they began paying attention to local inns' signs.

Shalash, a restaurant built in 1962 honourably carried on the traditions of Baydar hospitality.

Photo by T.B. Bakman



WITH LOVE, EVEN A HUT IS HEAVEN

A restaurant with the unassuming name Shalash (which translates as a crude hut made of tree branches) is situated in an iconic location on the Baydar Gate mountain pass. Emperor Alexander II was the first to appreciate the beauty of local nature and tasty cuisine. In 1880, he secretly married Princess Yekaterina Dolgorukova, and the couple eloped to Crimea. On the last day of their honeymoon, the lovers visited the Baydar Gate. "Fascinated by the view of the Black Sea and the bluish mountain pastures known as yayla, the emperor ordered that a table be set outside. The dinner was a merry and lively affair, and everyone's faces were alight with happiness," an eyewitness reports.

Built in 1962, Shalash honourably carried on the local hospitality traditions that date back centuries. Its specialties included chebureks with different fillings and Baydar style lamb: tender meat stewed in a "secret" sauce and served with a vegetable side dish.

IN FULL SAIL

The Hispaniola is a major landmark on the Yalta embankment. This old schooner, used in the filming of *Treasure Island* in Crimea in 1970, is extremely realistic. The remarkable professionals who worked on the screen adaptation of the famous pirate treasure story conveyed the spirit of the time convincingly, reproducing the appropriate realities, including the schooner, with amazing credibility.

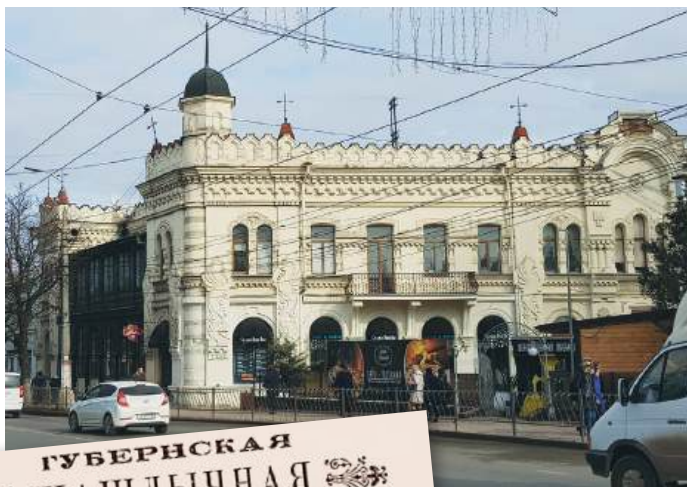
Later, the schooner became highly sought after by film-makers, but the maritime department intervened. Meeting its requirements would have compromised the ship's exotic flair, and The Hispaniola was converted into a bar. Its menu focused on seafood; the waiters were dressed as 17th century sailors, and customers could see wooden sculptures of *Treasure Island* characters in the hold and were given branded badges to keep as souvenirs.



The Hispaniola, a beautiful old schooner used in the filming of *Treasure Island*, is anchored on the Yalta embankment.



The schooner was repurposed as a bar half a century ago. Foreign tourists and Russian customers were impressed by the local cuisine and the nautical looks of the waiters.



Gubernskaya Shashlychnaya and Snow Rolls – the Crimean capital city has always been a culinary trendsetter.

The House with the Dragons has been guarding the gastronomic traditions in Simferopol for 130 years.

HOSPITALITY AND “COMMON GOOD”

One of the landmarks in the centre of Simferopol is known as the house with dragons. For over a century, the beautiful creatures carved on its façades have guarded the gastronomic traditions of Simferopol, which translates from Greek as the city of common good. In the 19th century, the building's ground floor, framed with intricate cast-iron gates, housed a place called Gubernskaya Shashlychnaya (the provincial shashlik place), which was recommended by every guidebook. In Soviet times, it also housed a restaurant called Yuzhny. Its speciality was Simferopol-style sausages. During the bicentennial celebrations in the Crimean capital, a trendy pizzeria opened in the building. Having smoothly integrated previous traditions, it continues to serve delicious pizza, those very same sausages, and sumptuous Solyanka soup to this day.

Another Simferopol speciality is meringue cream rolls. Compliance with GOST requirements works wonders: there is always a small line of people.



Poet Vasily Zhukovsky appreciated Memet Krymtayev's hospitality while travelling in Crimea in 1837, and painstakingly portrayed the inn in Mamut-Sultan (now Dobroye, Simferopol District).

NOT A BAD TAVERN BY THE ANGARA RIVER

The village of Perevalnoye, along the Simferopol-Alushta motorway, a modest eatery called Cheburechnaya catches the eye. This unpretentious roadside tavern is famous among the locals and visitors for its delicious food and affordable prices. Few people know though that travellers enjoyed visiting this place as far back as 1864, referring to it as "not a bad tavern by the Angara River."

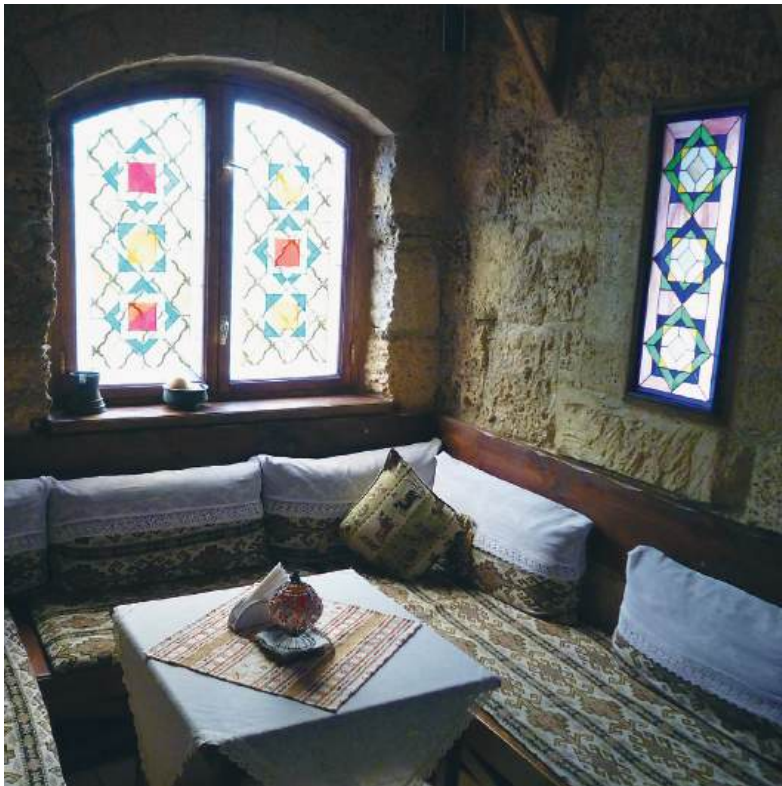
Even earlier, in 1837, poet Vasily Zhukovsky jotted down some vivid impressions in his diary after staying at Memet Murza's inn in the village of Mamut-Sultan (now Dobroye, a village close to Perevalnoye): "I had a coffee with some saurma-berek pies. Kurabie are pastries made of flour and honey. Kaymak and keban borit on a frying pan (honey, butter)". Satisfied, Zhukovsky sketched in his album the guest house provided by the owner of the estate.



Degirmen, a coffee house in the "garden city" of Bakhchisarai, is famous for an ancient elm-tree, which keeps company with connoisseurs of fine drinks.

"MAY THE FATES BE EVER IN YOUR FAVOUR"

This phrase is used in Crimean Tatar families to welcome guests while offering them a cup of strong, hot coffee. All travellers mention coffee houses, which were a kind of men's clubs. The hot drink, with its distinct aroma and rich foam, invited leisurely pastime and friendly conversation.



Degirmen, a stylish gastro bar (the name translates as coffee grinder) is a source of pride in today's Bakhchisarai. It offers visitors a variety of traditional coffee brews, regular and herbal teas and desserts, as well as a beautifully made diorama of the "garden city" during the heyday of the Crimean Khanate for guests to admire.

Gourmets are welcome to enjoy excellent coffee at Gezlev Kafesi, a Yevpatoria coffee house located in a real fortress tower, where house specialty desserts and pastries are served with the noble drink brewed according to original recipes.

The Yevpatoria coffee house
Gezlev Kafesi is housed in a real
fortress



The theme of coffee as an integral aspect of life is beautifully presented in the ethnographic department of the Museum of History and Culture of Crimean Tatars at the Khan Palace in Bakhchisarai.

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